

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



Parsha: Tetzaveh

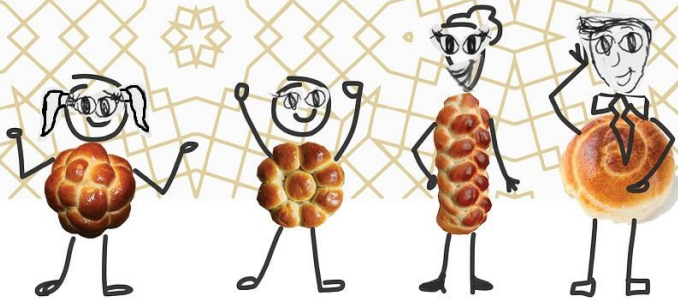
Title: Do Clothes Make the Person?

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The Parsha at First Glance

Spotlight on the Parsha:

At the beginning of the *parsha*, God tells Moshe to get olive oil from *Bnei Yisrael* to light the *Ner Tamid*, the eternal flame, of the *menorah*. Aharon is supposed to light this special flame each day, so that it is lit from evening until morning. The *kohanim's* holy clothing is also described. Then the *Kohen Gadol*, the high



priest's, clothing is explained. This includes an *Efod*, a piece of clothing like an apron, the *Choshen*, a breastplate with 12 precious stones with the names of the 12 tribes on them, and a golden plate, the *Tzitz*, worn on the Kohen Gadol's forehead. All of these details are important to the priests doing holy work/service in the *Mishkan*, the Tabernacle.

Zooming In:

The priests had to wear very specific clothing and accessories to do their jobs in the Mishkan. Do you think that they would have done as good of a job had they been wearing the same clothing as the rest of Bnei Yisrael? Why does it matter what someone is wearing as long as their heart is in the right place and the person has holy intentions?

Questions for Consideration:

Do certain clothes make a person better at their job or help them achieve their goals?

The Parsha Through Another Lens

Mahloket Time:

See if you can have a friendly debate, a *mahloket*, about the importance of clothes/the priests' clothing when serving in the Mishkan. Try to make arguments for both sides (that is the sign of a true debater - the ability to see and therefore argue for both sides!).



The 2 Opinions

1. <u>Clothes matter</u>	<u>Clothes do not matter</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the priests weren't wearing this special clothing, then their work would not have been holy nor respected. • Clothes matter today in different professions as well. • It also might have given Bnei Yisrael more trust and confidence in the job that the priests were doing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priests did not need to wear special clothing because what matters most is one's intention or <i>kavanah</i> when completing holy work. • It also might have made the rest of Bnei Yisrael feel badly that they were not worthy of special clothing.

3 Tips for a Healthy Mahloket

1. **Avoid putting down the other person's** ideas and beliefs.
2. **Use "I" statements** to communicate how you feel, what you think, and what you want or need.
3. **Listen to the other point of view.** When you listen to someone else's view, it shows the other person that you respect them. This also helps the other person feel comfortable listening to your opinion.



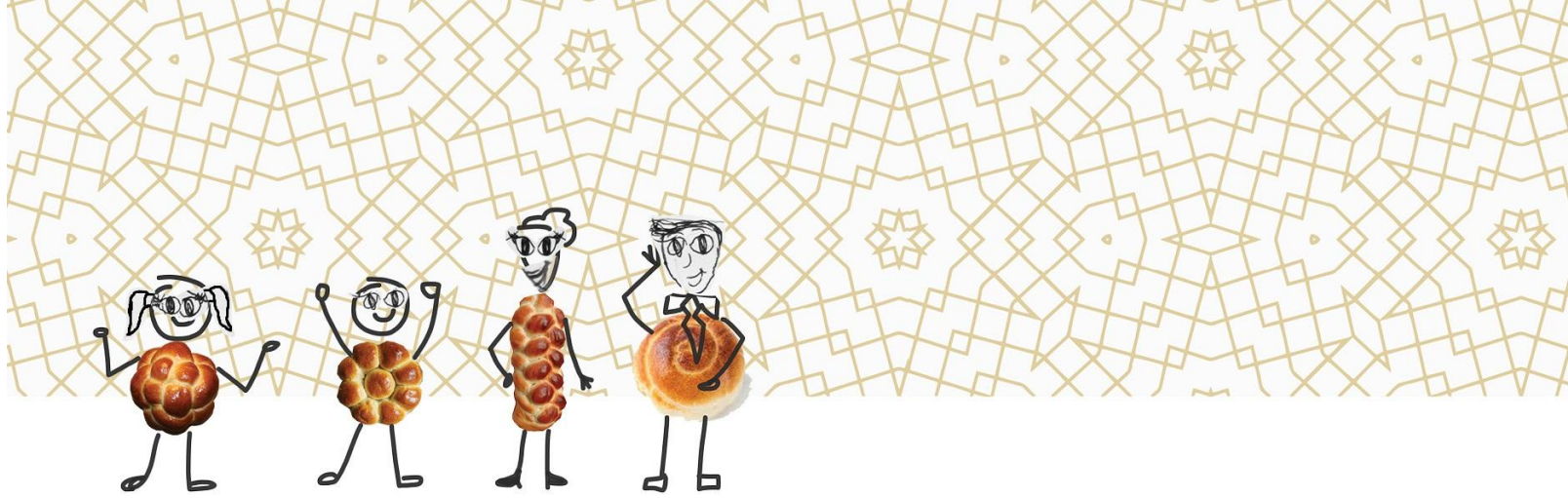
Guiding questions for your Mahloket

Questions in General

- Do you belong to a group or organization that requires you to wear a uniform or special clothing? Do these clothes set you apart from others?
- Would you trust a pilot or doctor if they were wearing jeans and a t-shirt while they were working?
- Why did it matter what clothing Cinderella wore to the ball? Do you think it should have mattered?

Questions connected to the Parsha

- Does putting on special clothing affect one's feelings or emotions?
- Why do you think that the Choshen, the breastplate, had the stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel?
- How might have the special clothing that Aharon and the other priests wore affected them? How do you think it made them feel while they did their jobs? How do you think it made the rest of Bnei Yisrael feel?



Picture This:

This is a picture of the Kohen Gadol's clothing (the middle and right picture), and the Kohanim's clothing (left picture) when doing service in the Temple.



Shabbat Shalom!