

For Reflection: Life Lesson #1

The places where we choose to meet a friend, or a lover are likely to be places where we are drawn by the décor, the ambiance, the aesthetics of that place. Perhaps the home-like architechture of the mishkan is suggesting that make my own home like a mikdash or a mishkan – a place in which I encounter the Divine.

Looking around my home - what small organizational or aesthetic change in my living space or work space – even one that does not cost a penny - could make a meaningful impact on how I relate – in that space, to myself and to others – and even to God?

Shemot / Exodus ch. 25

1 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying: 2 'Speak unto the children of Israel, that they take for Me an offering; of every man whose heart moves him you shall take My offering. 3 And this is the offering which you shall take of them: gold, and silver, and copper; 4 and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair; 5 and rams' skins dyoud red, and sealskins, and acacia-wood; 6 oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense; 7 onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate. 8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. 9 According to all that I show thee, the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the furniture thereof, even so shall you make it.

10 And they shall make an ark of acacia-wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 11 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, within and without...and shall make upon it a crown of gold round about.... 16 And you shall put into the ark the [tablets of] testimony which I shall give you.

17 And you shall make an ark-cover of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of beaten work shall you make them, at

א וַיַדַבֶּר יִהוָה, אֱל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר .**ב** דַּבֶּר אֱל-בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְיִקְחוּ-לִי תַּרוּמָה: מֵאֶת כָּל-אִישׁ אַשֶּׁר יִדְּבֵנוּ לְבּוֹ, תִּקְחוּ אֶת-תָּרוּמָתִי .ג וְזֹאֹת, הַתִּרוּמָה, אֲשֶׁר תִּקְחוּ, מֵאִתָּם: זָהָב וָכֵסֶף, וּנְחֹשֵׁת דּ וּתִכֵלֵת ואַרגָּמָן וִתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי, וְשֵׁשׁ וְעָזִים .הּ וְעֹרֹת אֵילִם מָאָדָמִים וְעֹרֹת תִּחָשִׁים, וַעֲצֵי שָׁטִים .וּ שֶׁמֶן, לַמָּאֹר; בִּשָּׁמִים לְשֵׁמֶן ָהַמִּשָּׁחָה, וִלְקָּטֹרֶת הַסַּמִּים .זּ אַבְנֵי-שֹׁהַם, ָוּעָשׂוּ לִי, אַבְנֵי מִלֶּאִים, לָאֵפֹד, וְלַחֹשֵׁן .**ח** וּעָשׂוּ לִי, ַמִקְדָּשׁ; וְשָׁכַנְתִּי, בָּתוֹכֶם .ט כָּכֹל, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מַרְאֶה אוֹתָךּ, אֶת תַּבְנִית הַמִּשְׁכָּן, וְאֵת תַּבְנִית כָּל-כֵּלָיו; וְכֵן, תַּעֲשׂוּ. {o} י וְעָשׂוּ אַרוֹן, עַצֵי שָׁטִים: אַמָּתַיִם וַחֱצִי אַרְכּוֹ, וְאַמָּה ּ וְחֵצִי רַחָבּוֹ, וְאַמָּה וְחֵצִי, קֹמָתוֹ . יא וְצְפִּיתָ אתוֹ זָהָב טָהוֹר, מְבַּיִת וּמְחוּץ תִּצְפֵּנוּ; וְעָשִּׁיתָ עַלָיו זֵר זָהָב, סָבִיב .יב וָיָצַקְתָּ לוֹ, אַרְבַּע ָטַבָּעֹת זָהָב, וְנֶתַתָּה, עַל אַרְבַּע פַּעֲמֹתָיו; ָוּשָׁתֵּי טַבָּעֹת, עַל-צַלְעוֹ הָאֶחָת, וּשָׁתֵּי טַבָּעֹת, ָעַל-צַלעוֹ הַשָּׁנִית . יג ועַשִּיתַ בַדֵּי, עַצֵי שָׁטִים; וְצָפִּיתָ אֹתָם, זָהָב . יד וְהֶבֶאתָ אֵת-הַבַּדִּים ָבַּטַבָּעֹת, עַל צַלְעֹת הָאָרֹן, לְשֵׂאת אֵת-הָאָרֹן, בַּטַבָּעֹת, עַל צַלְעֹת הָאָרֹן, בָּהֵם .**טו** בִּטַבְּעֹת, הָאָרֹן, יִהִיוּ, הַבַּדִּים: לֹא . ָיַסָרוּ, מִמֵּנוּ . **טז** וְנָתַתָּ, אֱל-הָאָרן--אֱת, ָהָעֶדַת, אֲשֶׁר אֶתֵּן, אֱלֵיךּ . יז וְעָשִּׂיתָ כַפּּׁרֵת, זָהָב טָהוֹר: אַמָּתַיִם וָחֵצִי אָרְכָּהּ, וְאַמָּה וָחֵצִי ָרָחָבָּה. יח וְעָשִּׂיתָ שְׁנַיִם כְּרֻבִים, זָהָב; מְקָשָׁה תַּעֲשֵׂה אֹתָם, מְשָּׁנֵי קְצוֹת ָהַכַּפֹּרֶת .יט וַעֲשֵׂה כָּרוּב אֶחָד מִקְּצָה, מִזֶּה, וּכְרוּב-אֶחָד מִקְּצָה, מְזֵה; מִן-הַכַּפֹּרֶת תַּעֲשׂוּ ּ אֶת-הַכָּרֻבִּים, עַל-שָׁנֵי קְצוֹתָיו הַכַּרַבִים פֿרשִי כָנַפַים למעלה, סככים -בְּכַנְפֵיהֵם עַל-הַכַּפֹּרֵת, וּפְנֵיהֵם, אִישׁ אֱל ֿאָחִיו; אֵל-הַכַּפּרֵת--יִהִיוּ, פְּנֵי ָהַכְּרֵבִים .כֹא וְנָתַתָּ אֶת-הַכַּפֹּרֵת עַל-הָאָרֹן, ַמְלְמַעְלָה; וָאֱל-הָאָרֹן--תִּתֵּן אֱת-הָעֶדָת, אֱשֶׁר אַתֵּן אֱלֵיךָ . כב וְנוֹעַדְתִּי לְךָּ, שָׁם, וְדְבַּרְתִּי



the two ends of the ark-cover.... 20 And the cherubim shall spread out their wings on high, screening the ark-cover with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the ark-cover shall the faces of the cherubim be. 21 And you shall put the ark-cover above upon the ark; and in the ark you shall put the [tablets of] testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will speak with thee from above the ark-cover, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

23 And you shall make a table of acacia-wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 24 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about....

29 And you shall make its **ladles** and the **pans**, and **jars**, and **bowls**, wherewith to pour out; of pure gold shall you make them. 30 **And you shall set upon the table show bread** before Me always.

31 And you shall make a **menora of pure gold:** of beaten work shall the menora be made, even its base, and its shaft; its cups, its knops, and its flowers, shall be of one piece with it.... 37 **And you shall make the lamps thereof, seven**; and they shall light the lamps thereof, **to give light** over against it....

אָתַּךְ מֵעַל הַכַּפֹּרֶת מְבֵּין שָׁנֵי הַכְּרֻבִים, אֲשֶׁר עַל-אַרוֹן הַעֶדִת--אָת כַּל-אַשֶׁר אַצַוּה אוֹתְרָ, {e} אֱל-בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֶל. כֹג וְעָשִׂיתָ שֵׁלְחָן, עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים: אַמָּתַיִם אָרְכּוֹ וָאַמָּה רַחַבּוֹ, וָאַמָּה וָחֵצִי לְמָתוֹ .כד וְצְפִּיתָ אֹתוֹ, זָהַב טָהוֹר; ועַשִּׂיתַ לּוֹ זֵר זָהַב, ָסָבִיב . כה וְעָשִּׁיתָ לּוֹ מִסְגַּרֵת טֹפַח, סָבִיב; ּוְעָשִּׂיתָ זֵר-זָהָב לְמִסְגַּרְתּוֹ, סָבִיב .כוּ וְעָשִּׁיתָ ָלוֹ, אַרְבַּע טַבְּעֹת זָהָב; וְנָתַהָּ, אֱת-הַטַּבָּעֹת, ֿעַל אַרְבַּע הַפָּאֹת, אֲשֶׁר לְאַרְבַּע -רַגְלַיו .**כז** לִעֲמַת, הַמִּסְגֶּרֵת, תִּהְיֶין, הַטַּבָּעֹת -לְבַתִּים לְבַדִּים, לְשֵׂאת אֱת-ָהַשַּׁלְחָן .**כח** וְעָשִּׁיתָ אֵת-הַבַּדִּים עֲצֵי שָׁטִים, וּצְפִּיתַ אֹתַם זַהַב; וּנְשָּׂא-בַם, אַת-ַהַשָּׁלְחָן . **כט** וְעָשִּׁיתָ קְעָרתָיו וְכַפּתָיו, וּקְשּׂותָיו ּוּמְנַקּיֹּתָיו, אֱשֶׁר יֻסַּךְ, בָּהֵן; זָהָב טָהוֹר, ּתַעשֵׂה אֹתָם .ל וְנָתַתָּ עַל-הַשָּׁלְחָן לֵחֵם פָּנִים, לְפָנַי תָּמִיד. {פּ} לא וְעָשִׂיתָ מִנֹרַת, זָהָב טָהוֹר; מִקְשָׁה תֵּעָשֵׂה הַמִּנוֹרָה, יְרֵכָהּ וְקְנָהּ, גִּבִיעֵיהָ כַּפִּתֹּרֵיהָ וּפָרֶחֵיהָ, מִמֶּנָּה יִהִיוּ . לב וִשִּׁשָּׁה קָנִים, יֹצְאִים ָמְצָדֵיהָ: שָׁלשָׁה קָנֵי מִנֹרָה, מִצְדָּהּ הָאֵחָד, וּשָׁלשָׁה קָנֵי מִנֹרָה, מִצְּדָּהּ הַשָּׁנִי . לג שָׁלשָׁה ,גָבְעִים מִשֶּׁקָדִים בַּקְנֵה הָאֶחָד, כַּפִּתֹּר וַפֵּרַח, וּשָׁלשָׁה גָבָעִים מִשְׁקָּדִים בַּקּנֵה הָאֶחָד, ּ כַּפִתֹּר וָפָרַח; כֵּן לְשֵׁשֶׁת הַקָּנִים, הַיֹּצְאִים מִן-הַמִּנֹרָה . **לד** וּבַמִּנֹרָה, אַרְבַּעָה גבעים: משקדים--כַּפִּתֹּרֵיהַ, וּפַרְחֵיהַ . לה וַכַפִּתֹר תַּחַת שׁנֵי הַקּנִים מְמֵנָה, וְכַפָּתֹר תַּחַת שָׁנֵי הַקְּנִים מְמֵנָה, ּוְכַפָּתֹּר, תַּחַת-שָׁנֵי הַקָּנִים מְמֵנָּה--לְשֵׁשֶׁת, הַקּנִים, הַיּצָאִים, מִן-הַמִּנֹרָה . לוֹ כַּפְתֹּרֵיהֶם וּקְנֹתָם, מִמֶּנָה יִהִיוּ; כַּלָהּ מִקְשָׁה אַחַת, זָהָב ָטָהוֹר . לז וְעָשִּׁיתָ אֶת-נֵרֹתֵיהָ, שָׁבְעָה; וָהֶעֱלָה, אֶת-נֵרֹתֶיהָ, וְהֵאִיר, עַל-עֲבֶר פַנִיהַ .לח וּמַלקּחֵיהַ וּמַחַתּתִיהַ, זָהַב ָּטָהוֹר . לט כָּכֶּר זָהָב טָהוֹר, יַעֲשֵׂה אֹתָהּ--אֶת ּכָּל-הַכַּלִים, הָאֵלֵה .**מ**וּרְאֵה, וַעֲשֵׂה: בִּתַבְנִיתָם--אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה מָרְאֶה, ַבָּהָר. {o}

Link - Mishkan, Tabernacle (note that most articles and writings on the Tabernacle in English are from Christian sources, which distort the Jewish understanding of the purpose of the Tabernacle)

https://www.google.com/search?q=%D7%AA%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%AA+%D7%9B%D7%9C%D7%99+%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%9B%D7%9B%D7%9F&rlz=1C1RQEB_enIL517IL517&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=FCqdcWmi1uQ3HM%253A%252CA0pOVmsJfglZHM%252C_&vet=1&usg=AI4_-kQNzEsJcGpMkpYNE_kv1xyq0JtL8g&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjMmp2wseLnAhWKVRUIHSZdAA0Q9QEwAnoECAoQCA#imgrc=FCqdcWmi1uQ3HM:



Ramban /Nachmanides ch. 25:1

The esoteric significance of the Mishkan is that the glory that rested upon Mount Sinai at the time of the giving of the Torah would rest upon the Tabernacle, but unlike at Sinai, in a concealed manner.

And just as it is written there, regarding Sinai "the glory of Hashem rested upon Mount Sinai" (Shemot 24:16), and it is further written (Deut. 5:21) "Behold, Hashem our God has shown us his glory and His greatness." So too here, regarding the Tabernacle, it is written "the glory of Hshem filled the Tabernacle (Shemot 40:34,34)....Thus the glory that originally appeared to the people at Mount Sinai remained constantly with Israel in the Tabernacle, and whenever Moses entered the Tabernacle he would receive the same level of Divine communication that was spoken to him at Mount Sinai....

For Reflection: Life Lesson #2

A close, intimate relationship requires a mutuality of giving, and seeking to satisfy the love languages of the other. What would happen if I asked someone I care about what their preferred love language is and what I can do for them using that love language? Who will I ask?

In what area do I align myself with the Divine desires or 'love languages' in the Torah, even if it is not what moves my heart at this moment?

Shemot 30:14-16 Half Shekel Tax

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: When you take a census of the Israelite people according to their enrollment, each shall pay the LORD a ransom for himself on being counted, that no plague may come upon them through their being counted. This is what everyone who is entered in the records shall pay: a half-shekel by the sanctuary weight—twenty gerahs to the shekel—a half-shekel as an offering to the LORD.

Everyone who is entered in the records, from the age of twenty years up, shall give the LORD's offering:

The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than half a shekel when giving the LORD's offering as expiation for your persons.

You shall take the expiation money from the Israelites and **assign it to the service**

יא וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר. יב כִּי תִשָּׂא אֶת-ראשׁ בְּנֵי-יִשְּׂרָאֵל, לִפְקַדֵיהֶם, וְנָתְנוּ אִישׁ כֹּפֶר נַפְשׁוֹ לִיהוָה, בִּפְלָד אֹתָם; וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה בָהֶם נָגֶף, בִּפְלָד אֹתָם.

> יג זֶה יִתְּנוּ, כָּל-הָעֹבֵר עַל-הַפְּקִדִים--מַחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל, בְּשֶׁקֶל הַלְּדָשׁ: עֶשְׂרִים גַּרָה, הַשֶּׁקֶל--מַחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל, תְּרוּמָה לֵיהוַה.

יד כֹּל, הָעֹבֵר עַל-הַפְּקֻדִים, מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה, וָמָעְלָה--יִּתֵּן, תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה.

טו הֶעְשִׁיר לא-יַרְבֶּה, וְהַדֵּל לֹא יַמְעִיט, מִמַּחֲצִית, הַשָּׁקֶל--לְתֵת אֶת-תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה, לְכַפֵּר עַל-נַפְשׁתֵיכֶם.



of the Tent of Meeting [Tabernacle]; it shall serve the Israelites as a reminder before the LORD, as expiation for your persons.

טז וְלָקַחְתָּ אֶת-כֶּסֶף הַכִּפֻּרִים, מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְנָתַתָּ אֹתוֹ, עַל-עֲל-עֲבֹדַת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד; וְהָיָה לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְזִכָּרוֹן לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, לְכַפֵּר עַל-נַפְשׁתֵּיכֶם. {פ}

For Reflection: Life Lesson #3

The sum total of those obligatory half shekels (collected from over 600,000 adults) actually made up the **majority** of the wealth needed to build and maintain the mishkan! The obligation for every person to be giving their part generates a sense of belonging, partnership, and a drives home a message of inherent equality for the Jewish people.

Many head start projects call for small donations from a large number of people —one of the wonderful uses of internet which brings people together in partnership for a greater good.

What small acts of giving, even minimally, have enabled to you feel a sense of partnership and belonging? Where would you like to envision a wide-spread kind of giving in your community? In the Jewish people at large?

Shemot 38:25-28 The Silver Sockets

And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was (100) a hundred talents, and (1775) one thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary: A beka a head, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that passed over to them that are numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for (603,550) six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men. And the (100) one hundred talents of silver were for casting the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the veil: a hundred sockets for the hundred talents, a talent for a socket. And of the (1775) one thousand seven hundred seventy and five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, and overlaid their capitals, and made fillets for them.

כה וְכֶּסֶף פְּקוּדֵי הָעַדָה, מְאַת כָּכֶּר;
וְאֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת וַחֲמִשֶּׁה
וְשְׁבְעִים, שֶׁקֶל--בְּשֶׁקֶל
הַלְּדֶשׁ .כּו בָּקַע, לַגֵּלְגֹּלֶת, מַחֲצִית
הַלֶּדֶשׁ .כּו בָּקַע, לַגַּלְגֹּלֶת, מַחֲצִית
הַשֶּׁקֶל, בְּשֶׁקֶל הַלְּדֶשׁ--לְכֹל הָעֹבֵר
וְמַעְלָה, לְשֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף וּשְׁלֹשֶׁת
וְחָמִשִּׁים .כֹז וַיְהִי, מְאַת כָּכֵּר
וְחָמִשִּׁים .כֹז וַיְהִי, מְאַת כָּכֵּר
וְאָלֶף, לְצֶקֶת אֵת אַדְנִי הַלְּדֶשׁ,
וְמָת אַדְנִי הַפְּלֹכֶת: מְאַת אָדְנִים
וְאָת אַדְנִי הַפְּלֹכֶת: מְאַת אָדְנִים
לְמְאֵת הַכְּכֶּר, כִּכֶּר לְאָדֶן .כֹח וְאֶתוְשְׁבַע הַמֵּאוֹת, וַחֲמִשָּׁה
וְשִׁבְעִים, עָשָׁה וְוִים, לָעַמוּדִים;
וְצְכָּה רָאשִׁיהֶם, וְחִשָּׁק אֹתָם.