



TETZAVEH

In this week's reading of Tetzaveh, G-d is continuing to give detailed instructions of how to properly assemble the Mishkan. In one section, there are strict instructions as to how to make the clothes of the Kohanim and the Kohen Gadol (priests and High Priest), which they were required to wear as they performed the service in the Bet Hamikdash.

The Kohanim knew that they were performing the service of G-d. They would not likely have done their duties in the temple dressed in jeans and T-Shirts. Why then, does G-d need to spell out for them a strict "dress code?"

It may be that the Torah is trying to teach us a lesson. A person tends to be judged by the clothing he wears. Someone may be smart, respectable, and very nice, but if he walks around in public dressed like a "shlump," the impression he will make on others will likely not be a good one. A Jew is always, in some form, involved in the service of G-d, and should therefore be dressed properly and modestly for that calling. Of course, nobody is saying that you should go about your Pesach cleaning (yes, you heard me) dressed in a suit and tie, but how we dress for school, synagogue, and other occasions should give us some thought.

On a side note, the maftir for this week, the Shabbat before Purim, is called Parshat Zachor; it is a SHORT, but important reading in which we remember what Amalek tried to do to the nation of Israel after they left from Egypt. **THERE IS AN IMPORTANT MITZVA / REQUIREMENT IN JEWISH LAW TO HEAR THIS SPECIFIC READING.**

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Cohen