

10 Adar 1, 5782
February 11, 2022

Parashat Tetzaveh

In Parashat Tetzaveh it describes all of the clothing of the kohanim. Every part of the Mishkan, including the clothing of the kohanim, served as an atonement for a particular sin. For example, the Me'il (coat) atoned for the sin of Lashon Hara. How did the Me'il help us achieve forgiveness for the sin of Lashon Hara?

The answer is that the Me'il was made out of Techelet-colored wool. Its bluish color was to remind us of the sea; the waves know their boundaries and how far they can go. We, also, need to remember our boundaries in what to say and what not to say. There's a time to speak and a time to remain silent. There are words we may say and words we may not say. There is a way for us to speak and a way that we may not speak. If we are careful about these things, we will avoid transgressing the sin of Lashon Hara.

Another answer is that the hem of the Me'il was lined with golden bells and pomegranates. Their delicate, beautiful sounds remind us that the sounds we make should be pleasant ones. We must be careful that our speech be kind and gentle. It should be music in the ears of those who hear us.

Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi Tesser