

Intoxicated in the Holy of Holies

A SOUL YEARNS

Mesivta D'rakiyah

There is a *mesivta* [academy] in the *rakiyah* [heavens] where the celestial beings learn our holy Torah. The Almighty himself is the Rosh Yeshiva, the grounds are out of this world and no student is rejected.

The sons of Aaron HaKohen longed to be in that heavenly school. Their souls left their bodies upon entering the holiest chamber of the traveling temple while intoxicated.

Perhaps in an overenthusiastic quest to connect to the One Above and quench their thirst for the deepest secrets of existence – they overlooked the importance of existence itself.

Nadav and Avihu entered the Kodesh Kedoshim overtaken by their desire to connect to the Being of All Beings. They longed for everyday to be Yom Kippur.



A Dwelling Below

Perhaps they wanted to escape the mundane, and thought 'there must be more to life than buying and selling...' Some souls need to be reminded that it's not always Yom Kippur – life is not meant to be a spiritual balm. You need to hang out in the weeds from time to time.

While Nadav and Avihu had a leap to the Divine without a return, our mission is to bring G-dliness into the world and create an abode for the One Above, down here. The Mesivta d'Rakiyah is not accepting (human) applicants right now.

Torah Q& A for your table

Q: Is it permissible to give back-to-back aliyahs to a father & son, or to two brothers?

A: Brothers or a father & son should not receive aliyahs one after the other. If they were already called up, they may have the Aliyah. Regarding Hagba & Gelilah: If the custom in the shul is to call them up by their names & make a mishebeirach afterwards, then they should not be given hagba & gelilah.

Q: Does unflavored Bourbon require a hechsher?

A: In general, bourbon does not require kosher certification. Exceptions would be if flavors have been added or if it was aged in wine casks, or if the company is owned by a Jew who does not sell his chametz before Pesach.

The Journey Home

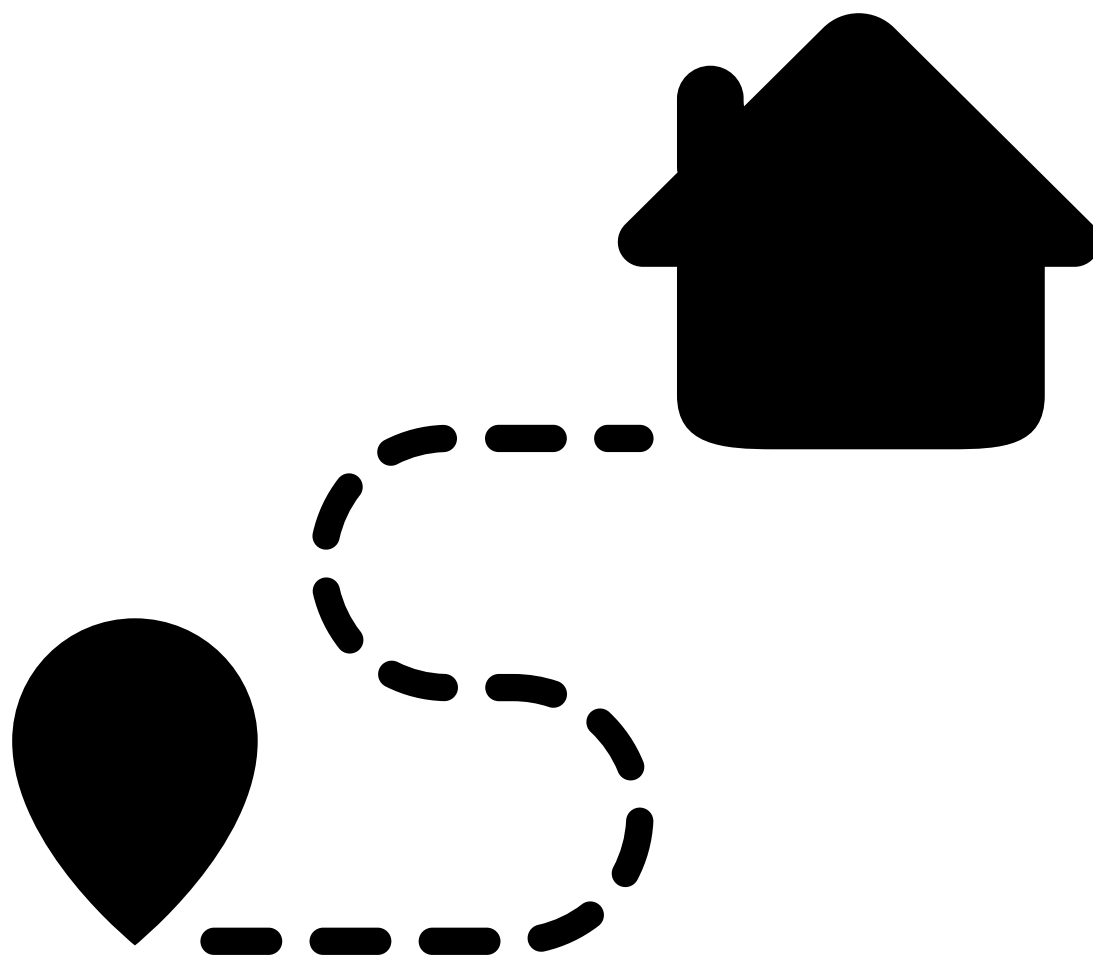
Go Home

BY MISHAEL SIONOV

At the conclusion of Yom Kippur, the Kohen Gadol took off his golden garments, the Rambam writes and then adds – “and he goes home.”

Why this seemingly insignificant detail? Obviously the Kohen Gadol went home afterwards! Where else would the Kohen Gadol go on motzaei Yom Kippur, to the pizza shop? And if he didn’t want to go home right away... Is it really a requirement that he head home?

It can be very hard to “go home” after heroically performing the ultimate service of Yom Kippur and effecting Heavenly atonement for the people!



After a huge win

Imagine a celebrity performs in concert or wins an allstar game. He goes home only to be asked to take out the garbage. The celebrity might not be able to handle it. “What do I need this for?” he’ll think. “Hundreds of thousands of people think I’m superhuman; my family tells me to clean up after myself?”

“You were just in the Kodesh Kadashim?” says the Torah to the Kohen Gadol. “Great, now go home!” The message here is powerful: It’s not an interruption of the holy and sublime avodah, but rather a continuation of the Kodesh Kadashim...

Torah Q & A for your table

Q: Is it permissible to use maaser (tzedaka) funds to pay for a meal for yeshiva students, and dedicate it in memory of a loved one?

A: It is permissible to dedicate such a meal for yeshiva or kollel students using maaser funds, even if they are not poor. The meal can be dedicated in memory of someone, or the like.

Q: After a man makes Kiddush, who should he give wine to first? His wife? Distinguished Guests? His children?

A: First and foremost, you should give wine to your wife, whom you are commanded to honor more than yourself. If you have honored guests, you may give them wine before your young children.

שבת שלום

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7:42pm Candle Lighting

7:48pm Mincha

Followed by Kabbalas Shabbos

8:45am Chassidus Shiur

10:00am Davening

6:20 Gemora Shiur (Sotah daf 27)

7:35pm Mincha

8:47pm Maariv / Shabbos Ends