

February 23, 2018

Dear BQLI Region Friends,

We've all heard the expression, "The clothes make the man." Since the Garden of Eden, we have been mindful of covering our bodies. The styles in which we dress (sophisticated, sexy, funky, professional) send our individual messages to the world.

In this week's Torah parashah, Tetzavveh, there are more than forty verses devoted to the subject of the *Bigdei Kodesh*, the holy clothing of the high priests, Aaron and his sons. Such specificity is unusual for any single topic in the Torah. So, why are these ritual garments so important?

It seems that Torah is indeed telling us that clothes do make the man, or at least the role in which the man is serving. Aaron is to be dressed as befits a *Kohen Gadol*, a High Priest. When he engages in work that is holy, he is to be justly dressed in holy garments. By adding beauty to the *mitzvah*, we add to the holiness of the act.

As it says in Exodus, the Jewish people are to be a "nation of priests." Shouldn't we then be required to mimic the activities and garments of the priests? Wouldn't it be wonderful to think that each of us has the potential to achieve such holiness? The clothes we wear most surely reflect how we value ourselves and our relationship with God.

Yes, I acknowledge that the priests had special responsibility and an extraordinary relationship with God. But, everyone can enjoy such a connection, priest or not. Perhaps we just need to dress the part...

And, speaking of parts, may dressing up as Queen Esther, King Achashverosh, or Mordechai serve as a reminder of how lucky we are that we no longer need to hide who we are as Jewish people!

Chag Purim Sameach!

B'Shalom,  
Grace