

Chabad of North Bay Village/Hachedesed

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This Week's News

Shabbos Parshas Shmini, 5768 – Parshas Para

This week the Torah portion is Shmini. Additionally we read the section in the Torah dealing with the Red Heifer, Para Aduma.

The Torah instructs a person who came in contact with a corpse or another "impure" item, spiritually contaminated. The way to "cleanse" oneself from this malady is through sprinkling oneself with a liquid made from the Red Heifer. This was a potion made the Heifer's ashes, adding water to it, etc. The reason we read this Torah section before Pesach is because one was forbidden to participate in the Pascal sacrifice if he was ritually defiled. Therefore since we are weeks away from Pesach, we remind ourselves of this requirement.

What's the application of the Red Heifer in today's day and age?

The Red Heifer law is called a Chuka, a statue. It has no logical explanation for several reasons. The ability for a potion to spiritually "cleanse" someone is illogical. Also, the one sprinkling it on the defiled person becomes defiled while the person being sprinkled on becomes pure. This is an oxymoron. Yet, this is the law. Therefore we call this law a statue implying a law beyond logic. Why did G-d give us such a law? Because it teaches us to observe G-d's commandments with complete subservience whether they make sense or not. In Hebrew we call this Kabbalas Ol, the acceptance of G-d's yoke. This is the underlying principle of all mitzvohs.

This is why we read this as a Pesach preparation. Pesach we pass over our limitations. This can only be done if our foundation is total subservience to G-d.

Shalom and good Shabbos,

Rabbi Faivish Dalfin

Hachedesed Activity Report for the week of March 9 - 14

Rabbi Dalfin will be traveling to Israel on March 27 for 4 days to make a bar mitzvah for 8 orphan boys and host a party for the families. These 8 bar mitzvah boys will commemorate the loss of the 8 yeshiva students in Jerusalem's massacre.

We will distribute funds for Pesach directly to hundreds of needy families. Hachedesed will bring a smile to these families.

In the merit of Tzedaka we will merit the final redemption now!