Tetzaveh: Headcovering & Royalty

Rabbanit Leah Sarna No'a bat Miri | 5783

שמות כ"ח:א'-ה' שמות כ"ח:א'-ה'

You shall bring forward your brother Aaron, with his sons, from among the Israelites, to serve Me as priests: Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron. Make sacral vestments for your brother Aaron, **for dignity and adornment.** Next you shall instruct all who are skillful, whom I have endowed with the gift of skill, to make Aaron's vestments, for consecrating him to serve Me as priest. These are the vestments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a fringed tunic, a headdress, and a sash. They shall make those sacral vestments for your brother Aaron and his sons, for priestly service to Me; they, therefore, shall receive the gold, the blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and the fine linen.

שמות כ"ח:ל"ו-מ"ג שמות כ"ח:ל"ו-מ"ג

You shall make a frontlet of pure gold and engrave on it the seal inscription: "Holy to ה"." Suspend it on a cord of blue, so that it may remain on the headdress; it shall remain on the front of the headdress. It shall be on Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may take away any sin arising from the holy things that the Israelites consecrate, from any of their sacred donations; it shall be on his forehead at all times, to win acceptance for them before ה'. You shall make the fringed tunic of fine linen. You shall make the headdress of fine linen. You shall make the sash of embroidered work. And for Aaron's sons also you shall make tunics, and make sashes for them, and make turbans for them, for dignity and adornment. Put these on your brother Aaron and on his sons as well; anoint them, and ordain them and consecrate them to serve Me as priests. You shall also make for them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; they shall extend from the hips to the thighs. They shall be worn by Aaron and his sons when they enter the Tent of Meeting or when they approach the altar to officiate in the sanctuary, so that they do not incur punishment and die. It shall be a law for all time for him and for his offspring to come.

וְעַשִּׂיתָ אַיץ זָהָב טָהֶוֹר וּפִתַּחָהַ עַלַיוֹ פִּתּוּחֵי חֹתָׁם קֹדֵשׁ לַה': וְשַׂמָתַּ אֹתוֹ עַל־פָּתִיל תִּבֶּלֶת וְהָיָה עַל־הַמִּצְנָפֶת אֶל־מְוּל פָּנֵי־הַמִּצְנָפֶת יָהֵיָה: וְהָיָה` עַל־מַצַח אַהַרוֹ וְנַשַּׁא אַהַרוֹ אָת־עַוֹן הַקַּדַשִּׁים אַשֵּׁר יַקְדִּישׁוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל לְכֶל־מַתְּנָת קְדְשׁיהֶם וְהָיָה עַל־מִצְחוֹ תַּמִּיד לְרַצָּוֹן לָהֶם לְפָנֵי ה': וְשִׁבַּצְתַּ הַכִּתְנֵת שָׁשׁ וְעָשִׂיתַ מִצְנֵפֶת שֻׁשׁ וְאַבָנֵט תַּעֲשֻׂה מַעֲשָׂה רֹקָם: וְלִבְגֵי אַהַרוֹ תַּעֲשָׂה כָהֲנֹת וְעָשִׂיתְ לָהֶם אַבְנֵמֵים וּמָגְכַּעוֹת ֹתַעֲשֶׂה לָהֶׁם לְּכָבְוֹד וּלְתִּפְאָרֵת: וְהְלְכַּשְׁתַּ אֹתָם אֶת־אַהַרְן אָחִידְּ וְאֶת־בָּנַיִיו אָתְוֹ וּמַשַׁחָהָּ אֹתָם וּמָלֵאתָ אָת־יַדֶם וִקְדַשָּׁתָּ אֹתָם **וִכְהַנִּוּ לֵי**: וַעֲשֵׂה לָהֶם מִכְנְסֵי־בָּד לְכַסִּוֹת בְּעַיִּר עֶרְוֶה מִמְּתְנַיִם וְעַד־יְרַכַיִם יָהָיְוּ: וְהָיוּ עַל־אַהַרֹן וְעַל־בָּנַיו בָּבֹאָם וּ אֵל־אְהֶל מוֹעֵּד אָוֹ בִגִשָּׁתָם אֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּתַ לְשַׁרֵת בַּלֹּדֵשׁ וַלא־יִשְׂאָוּ עָוָן וָמֻתוּ חָקַת עוֹלָם לְוֹ וּלְזַרְעִוֹ אַתַרִיו: {ס}

ָוְאַמַּה הַקָרֵב אֶלֶיּךְ אֶת־אַהַרֹן אָחִידְ וְאֶת־בָּנֵיו אִתֹּוֹ

מְתֶּוֹךְ בְּגֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל **לְכַהֲנוֹ־לֵי** אַהְרֹוֹ נָדֶב וַאֲבִיהָוּא אֶלְעָזֶר וְאִיתָאָר בְּגַי אַהָרוֹ: וְעָשִׁיתָ בִּגַי־קֹדֶשׁ לְאַהְרִוֹ

אֶל־בָּל־חַכְמֵי־לֵב אֲעֶׁר מִלֵּאתָיו רַוּחַ חָכְמֶה וְעָשׁוּ אֶת־בִּגְדִי אַהְרָוֹ לְקַדְּשׁוֹ **לְכַהַנוֹּ־לִי:** וְאֵׁלֶּה הַבְּגָדִים

אַשֶּׁר יַצַשוּ חָשֶׁן וָאֵפּוֹד וּמְלִּיל וּכְתְנֵת תַּשְׁבֵץ מִצְנֵפֶת

וְאַבָנֵט וְעַשׁוּ בִגְדֵי־לְּדֵשׁ לְאַהַרָן אָחֶיךּ וּלְבָנַיו

לְ**כַהֲנוֹ־לִי:** וְהֵם ׁ יִקְחַוּ אֶת־הַזָּהָב וְאֶת־הַתְּכֵלֶת

ַן אֶת־הַשֵּׁשׁ: {פּ

אָחֻידְ ל**ָכָבִוֹד וּלְתִפְאָרֶת**: וְאַמָּה מִדַבֵּר'

ערכין גי ב:י"ד ערכין גי ב:י"ד

The Gemara answers by citing a *halakha* that the Sages **taught:** The **hair of** the High Priest **was visible between the frontplate and the mitre.** The frontplate was set on the forehead, below the

תנא שערו היה נראה בין ציץ למצנפת ששם מניח תפילין

hairline, while the mitre was set above it. In **that** space **there** the High Priest **would don** his **phylacteries**. Consequently, the phylacteries did not interpose between the mitre and the High Priest's head.

Ibn Ezra on Exodus 28:36:1

AND THOU SHALT MAKE A PLATE. The Gaon renders tzitz (plate) atzabah. It was placed on the mitre. It was not shaped like a crown, as the plate was placed only on the forehead. According to the plain meaning of the text, the *migba'ot* (head-tires) (Lev. 8:13) were not shaped like the mitre (mitznefet). The head-tires are similar to the high hats which men in this and surrounding countries place upon their heads as a head covering. The mitre is made from long thin material which is twisted only around the head. The turbans worn by women in these areas are somewhat similar. In Spain, Africa, Egypt, Babylonia, and Baghdad and in the land of the Ishmaelites, only men of respect, not the women, wear turbans on their heads. The important officials place a golden plate on the turban over the forehead. I have already noted that the ornaments in the Land of Israel and the customs practiced there differ from those in these areas.

אבן עזרא על שמות כ״ח:ל״ו:א׳

ועשית ציץ. תרגמה הגאון עצאבה והיא נתונה על המצופת ואיננה כדמות כתר כי הוא על המצח לבדו. כי על דרך הפשט אין המגבעות כדמות מצנפת כי המגבעות כדמות אלה שישימו הזכרים מאלה הארצות על הראש שיכסו הראש והם גבוהים והמצנפת היא בגד דק ארוך צנוף סביב הראש לבדו מעט תדמה לה המצנפת שיש בראש הנשים באלה המקומות כי בארץ ישמעאל ובספרד ואפריקא ומצרים ובבל ובאגדד. המצנפת היא על הראש מן הזכרים הנכבדים ולא על ראש אשה. הראש מן הזכרים הנכבדים ולא על ראש אשה. והשרים הגדולים עושים ציץ זהב על המצנפת על מקום המצח. וכבר הזכרתי לך כי מנהג ארץ ישראל ותכשיטיהם אינו כמנהג אלה המקומות.

Berakhot 60b:5

Upon hearing the sound of the rooster, one should recite: Blessed...Who gave the heart [sekhvi] understanding to distinguish between day and night. Upon opening his eyes, one should recite: Blessed...Who gives sight to the blind. Upon sitting up straight, one should recite: Blessed...Who sets captives free. Upon dressing, one should recite: Blessed...Who clothes the naked, as they would sleep unclothed. Upon standing up straight, one should recite: Blessed...Who raises those bowed down. Upon descending from one's bed to the ground, one should recite: Blessed...Who spreads the earth above the waters, in thanksgiving for the creation of solid ground upon which to walk. Upon walking, one should recite: Blessed...Who makes firm the steps of man. Upon putting on his shoes, one should recite: Blessed...Who has provided me with all I need, as shoes are a basic necessity. Upon putting on his belt, one should recite: Blessed...Who girds Israel with strength. Upon spreading a shawl upon his head, one should recite: Blessed...Who crowns Israel with glory.

ברכות סי ב:הי

פִּי שָׁמַע קוֹל תַּרְנִגוֹלָא, לֵימָא: "בֶּרוּךְ ... אֲשֶׁר נַתְן לַשֶּׁכְוִי בִּינָה לְתַּבְחִין בֵּין יוֹם וּבֵין לְיִלָה". כִּי פָּתַח עֵינֵיה, לִימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... פּוֹקֵחַ עִוְּרִים". כִּי פָּתַח עֵינֵיה, לֵימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... מַתִּיר בִּי תָּבִישׁ, לֵימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... מַלְּבִישׁ צְינִים". כִּי זָקֵיף, לֵימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... זוֹקֵף בְּפוּפִים". כִּי זָקִית לְאַרְעָא, לֵימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... זוֹקֵף רְּוֹקַע הָאָרֶץ עַל הַמָּיִם". כִּי מְסַגֵּי, לֵימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... יְבַּרוּךְ ... יְבָּרוּךְ ... מְמַכִּין מָצְעַדִי גָבֶר". כִּי סַיֵּים יְבָּרוּךְ ... שְׁעָשֶׁה לִי כָּל מְסָאנֵיה, לֵימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... עְּטָר הִייִּ בִּרוּךְ ... אוֹזֵר יִשְׂרָאַל בִּבְּרוּךְ ... מִי פִרִים סוּדְרָא עַל בִּייִיה, לִימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... מִי פִּרִים סוּדְרָא עַל בִּיִישׁיה, לִימָא: "בָּרוּךְ ... עוֹטר ישִׂרְאַל בַּתְבּארה".

Tosafot on Berakhot 60b:5:2

תוספות על ברכות סי ב:ה':ב'

UPON SPREADING A SHAWL UPON HIS HEAD. And the rule is the same, that one should recite the b'rochoh "Who crowns Israel with splendor" on any hat or head covering. And only when he actually benefits does one recite the b'rochoh, but if he does not benefit, for example, when he remains lying on his bed, he should not recite this b'rochoh, nor the b'rochoh "Who clothes the naked", nor any similar b'rochos that speak of a specific benefit that Hashem does for us, since he is not benefiting, as it appears in the third perek of M'giloh (24b): in regard to a person who never saw light in his days, i.e. he was born blind, that all agree that he should not recite the b'rochoh about light, because he must benefit from the light in order to say the b'rochoh. So too, this series of b'rochos that discuss the various ways that we benefit from Hashem's creation should be said only when we enjoy that benefit.

כי פריס סודרא על רישיה - וה"ה לכל כובע ולכל כסוי ודוקא כשנהנה אבל אם אינו נהנה כגון שהוא שוכב על מטתו לא יברך לא זו ולא מלביש ערומים ולא ברכות כיוצא בהן כיון שלא נהנה כדמשמע בפרק שלישי דמגילה (דף כד:) גבי מי שלא ראה מאורות מימיו דכולי עלמא בעי שיהנה מן האורה:

Yoma 47a:13

The Sages taught in a baraita: Kimḥit had seven sons, and they all served in the office of the High Priesthood, as High Priests or as his substitute. The Sages said to her: What good deeds did you perform to merit this? She said to them: In all my days, the beams of my house never saw the braids of my hair, as she was extremely modest and was strict about covering her hair even inside her own house. They said to her: Many women did so and did not succeed to such a degree; you must have been granted a special gift from God.

תָּנוּ רַבָּנַן: שִׁרְעָה בָּנִים הָיוּ לָה לְּקִמְחִית, וְכוּלָּן שִׁמְשׁוּ בִּכְהוּנָּה גְּדוֹלָה. אָמְרוּ לָה חֲכָמִים: מָה עֲשִׂית שֶׁוָּכִית לְכָהְ? אָמְרָה לֶהֶם: מִיָּמֵי לֹא רָאוּ קוֹרוֹת בֵּיתִי קַלְעֵי שְׁעָרִי. אָמְרוּ לָה: הַרְבֵּה עָשׁוּ כֵּן וְלֹא הועילוּ.

Arakhin 16a:13-16

Rabbi Anani bar Sason say: Why was the passage in the Torah that discusses the **priestly vestments** (Leviticus 8) **juxtaposed to** the passage that discusses offerings (Leviticus, chapters 1–7)? To tell you that just as offerings atone, so too the priestly vestments atone. For what does each garment atone? The tunic [ketonet] atones for bloodshed, as it is written with regard to Joseph's brothers after they plotted to kill him: "And they killed a goat, and dipped the coat [ketonet] in the blood" (Genesis 37:31). The trousers atone for forbidden sexual relations, as it is written with regard to the priestly vestments: "And you shall make them linen trousers to cover the flesh of their nakedness" (Exodus 28:42). The mitre atones for the arrogant, in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Hanina, as Rabbi Hanina says: It is logical that an item placed at an elevation, i.e., on the head of a priest, shall come and atone for the matter of an elevated heart. The belt atones for thought of the heart. The Gemara elaborates: The belt atones for the sins occurring where it is situated, i.e., over the heart, as it is written: "And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Tummim; and it shall be upon Aaron's heart, (Exodus 28:30). The breastplate of the

ערכין ט"ז א:י"ג-ט"ז

אמר ר' ענני בר ששון למה נסמכה פרשת בגדי כהונה לפרשת קרבנות לומר לך מה קרבנות מכפרין אף בגדי כהונה מכפרין כתונת מכפרת על שפיכות דמים דכתיב (בראשית לז, לא) ויטבלו את הכתנת בדם מכנסים מכפרים על גילוי עריות דכתיב (שמות כח, מב) ועשה להם מכנסי בד לכסות בשר ערוה <u>מצנפת מכפרת על גסי</u> הרוח כדרבי חנינא דא"ר חנינא יבא דבר שבגובה ויכפר על מעשה גובה אבנט מכפרת על הרהור הלב אהיכא דאיתיה (דכתיב (שמות כח, לה) והיה על לב אהרן) חושן מכפר על הדינין דכתיב (שמות כח, טו) ועשית חושן משפט אפוד מכפר על עבודה זרה דכתיב (הושע ג, ד) אין אפוד ותרפים מעיל מכפר על לשון הרע אמר הקב"ה יבא דבר שבקול ויכפר על מעשה הקול ציץ מכפר על מעשה עזי פנים כתיב הכא (שמות כח, לח) והיה על מצח אהרן

וכתיב התם (ירמיהו ג, ג) ומצח אשה זונה היה לד

High Priest atones for improper judgments, as it is written: "And you shall make a breastplate of judgment" (Exodus 28:15). The ephod of the High Priest atones for idol worship, as it is written: "And without ephod or teraphim" (Hosea 3:4), that is to say, when there is no ephod, the sin of teraphim, i.e., idol worship, is found. This indicates that if there is an ephod, there is no sin of idol worship. The robe of the High Priest atones for malicious speech, as the Holy One, Blessed be He says: Let an item that produces sound, i.e., the bells of the robe, come and atone for an act of malicious sound, i.e., malicious speech. Finally, the frontplate of the High Priest atones for an act of brazenness. From where is this derived? Here, with regard to the frontplate, it is written: "And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead" (Exodus 28:38), and there, with regard to brazenness, it is written: "And you had a prostitute's forehead" (Jeremiah 3:3).

שבת קנ"ו ב:ו' Shabbat 156b:6

And from that which transpired to Rav Naḥman bar Yitzḥak as well it can be derived that there is no constellation for the Jewish people, As Chaldean astrologers told Rav Naḥman bar Yitzḥak's mother: Your son will be a thief. She did not allow him to uncover his head. She said to her son: Cover your head so that the fear of Heaven will be upon you, and pray for Divine mercy. He did not know why she said this to him. One day he was sitting and studying beneath a palm tree that did not belong to him, and the cloak fell off of his head. He lifted his eyes and saw the palm tree. He was overcome by impulse and he climbed up and detached a bunch of dates with his teeth. Apparently, he had an inborn inclination to steal, but was able to overcome that inclination with proper education and prayer.

וּמִדְּרַב נַחְמָן בַּר יִצְחָק נָמֵי אֵין מַזָּל לְיִשְׂרָאֵל.
דְּאִימֵיה דְּרַב נַחְמָן בַּר יִצְחָק אָמְרִי לַהּ כַּלְדָּאֵי:
בְּרִידְ גַּנָּבָא הָוֵה. לָא שְׁבַקְתֵּיה גַּלּוֹיֵי רֵישֵׁיה.
אֲמֶרָה לֵיהּ: כַּסִּי רֵישָׁידְּ, כִּי הֵיכִי דְּתִיהְוֵי עֲלֶדְּ
אֵימְתָא דִשְׁמֵיָּא, וּבְעִי רַחְמֵי. לָא הָוָה יָדַע אַמַּאי קָאמְרָה לֵיה. יוֹמָא חַד יָתִיב קָא גָרֵיס תּוּתֵי
דִיקְלָא, נְפַל גְּלִימָא מֵעִילָּוֵי רֵישִׁיה, דְּלִי עֵינֵיה חָזָא לְדִיקְלָא, אַלְמֵיה יִצְרֵיה, סְלֵיק, פַּסְקֵיה
הָזָא בְּשׁינִּיה.

Kiddushin 31a:3

With regard to the same issue, Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi says: It is prohibited for a person to walk even four cubits with an upright posture, which is considered an arrogant manner, as it is stated: "The entire world is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3). One who walks in an arrogant manner indicates a lack of regard for the glory and honor of God that is surrounding him, and thereby chases God from that place, as it were. The Gemara relates: Rav Huna, son of Rav Yehoshua, would not walk four cubits with an uncovered head. He said: The Divine Presence is above my head, and I must act respectfully.

קידושין ל״א א:ג׳

אָמַר רַבִּי יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי אָסוּר לְאָדָם שֶׁיְּהֵלֵּךְ אַרְבַּע אַמוֹת בְּקוֹמָה זְקוּפָה שֶׁנָּאֲמַר מְלֹא כָל הָאָרֶץ כְּבוֹדוֹ רַב הוּנָא בְּרֵיה דְּרַב יְהוֹשֵׁעַ לָא מְסַגֵּי אַרְבַּע אַמּוֹת בָּגִילוּי הַרֹאשׁ אָמַר שִׁכִינָה לְמַעָלָה מֵרָאשֵׁי

Links for Further Study

- 1. Deracheha on Headcovering
- CJLS of the Conservative Movement on Headcovering
 Sourcesheet on Headcovering for Non-married non-men
- 4. Lectures by Rabbanit Leah Sarna on Modern Sources on Head/Hair Covering
 - a. <u>One</u>
 - b. <u>Two</u>