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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim / פרשת אחרי מות־קדשים Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:38 PM, May 1, 2015 13 Iyyar 5775

Jerusalem Divrei Torah

The centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish People is indisputable and is the core of our mission. Our Divrei Torah by [Rabbi Yosef Bronstein](#) focus on Jerusalem and its connection to the weekly Torah portion. For a pdf to discuss at the Shabbat table, please [click here](#). To sponsor a Dvar Torah please [click here](#)

This week's Dvar Torah sponsored by the **Essrog Family**:

ה"ל"נ העניע בריינע בת הרב צבי הירש ע"ה

ה"שמואל בן הרב שמעון דוב ע יצחק לז"נ

The Human Sanctuary of Hashem

As described in the pesukim, one goal of the service of the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur, "provide atonement upon the Sanctuary for the contaminations of the Children of Israel." [1] What contamination is being referred to? The Gemara[2] analyzes several possibilities until finally concluding that it is the sin of bringing impurity into the Beit ha-Mikdash. At one point, however, the Gemara weighs the possibility that the service is meant to atone for the sin of idolatry which is described as "contaminating the Sanctuary." While this idea is rejected due to the precise phrasing of the verse, the notion that idolatry anywhere in Israel creates an "impurity" in the Beit ha-mikdash clearly emerges from the Gemara.

The concept that certain sins create impurity in the Beit ha-Mikdash requires further analysis. Why should a person's behaviors in his own home affect the sanctity of the Beit ha-Mikdash? It is reasonable that a person's sins, no matter the location, will have negative ramifications on the purity of his own soul. But why would it affect the Beit ha-Mikdash which might stand many hundreds of miles away from the offence?

When describing the impurity caused to the Sanctuary by idolatry, the Gemara cites a proof-text from parashat Kedoshim. Hashem warns that he will "personally" punish one who offers his child to the idolatry Molech, as this violator "defiled my Sanctuary and desecrated my Holy Name." [3] Sensing the difficulty with an impurity being created in the mikdash by an individual's idolatrous practices, Rashi translates "My Sanctuary" as referring to the Jewish people. Idolatry contaminates the Jewish people, who are God's metaphorical sanctuary.

What emerges from Rashi is a deep connection between the Jewish people and the Beit ha-Mikdash. Hashem contracted his

A Big Victory!

**Much To Be Thankful For
In Advance of Our Dinner in June, We Are
Happy To Share the Following News With You**

**SUMMARY OF FEDERAL COURT ACTION
INSTITUTED BY AYDA HUSAM AHMAD AND 11
OTHERS AGAINST CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAELI
COMMUNITIES, THE HEBRON FUND, INC. CENTRAL
FUND OF ISRAEL, ONE ISRAEL FUND, LTD., AND
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM , INC.**

We are pleased to inform our readers and supporters that a recent court decision (mentioned above) ruled in our favor. We would like to share it with you. We thank our attorneys [Lewin & Lewin](#) for their efforts on our behalf.

To read the press release from Lewin & Lewin, please [click here](#)

More on the story, please [click here](#)

We join the Jews the world over in support of the efforts made by Israel and Chabad to aid the victims of the earthquake in Nepal. We pray for their safe return and for all the victims of this tragedy

click the picture below [or here](#) to read a story about Chabad's efforts



infinite glory that cannot be contained by all the heavens and concentrated it in a small sanctuary. Similarly, we are taught that "The Holy One Blessed be He, the Torah and the Jewish people are one." [4] At the heart of hearts of each Jew individually, and the Jewish people collectively, is a "part of God," [5] so to speak. The Shechina that is so apparent in the Beit ha-Mikdash also exists inside the Jewish people.

With this in mind we can return to our opening question. The reason that sins of an individual Jew in his own four cubits can desecrate the Beit ha-Mikdash despite the distance is due to this essential connection between the two. A Jew who sins desecrates the Shechina which is the essence of his being, the very Shechina that is manifest in the Beit ha-Mikdash.

If this is true for the negative, it is certainly true for good. The more we cultivate and amplify the spark of divinity that is inherent in our souls, the closer we come to being able to experience the presence of the Shechinah in the Beit ha-Mikdash.

- [1] Vayikra 16:16. Translation is from the Stone edition of Tanach.
- [2] Shavu'os 7b.
- [3] Vayikra 20:3.
- [4] Zohar chelek 3, 73a.
- [5] Tanya, Likkutei Amarim perek 2.

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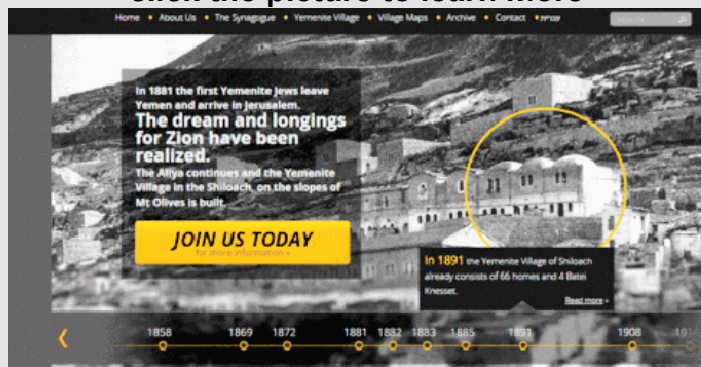
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Our current projects in the Old City of Jerusalem and areas adjacent to the Old City actualize our mission of "Making the Old City, Young Again"

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Today, the walled city of Jerusalem (the Old Yishuv) and the areas immediately adjacent to it, have come back to life with children and families due to the work of Ateret Cohanim. The miracle that was the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948, the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 and the continued growth of the Jewish community in these areas, are constant reminders of the eternity of our religious belief. Help Us Continue Our Work

*Established in 1978,
This year is our "double chai" year*



American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai

Our Mission

The Old City is home to nearly 35,000 people..

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The Jewish population of the Old City numbers 5000 of which 4000 reside in the Jewish Quarter. The additional 1000 are living and learning in the area of the Old Jewish Quarter (Referred to as the Moslem and Christian Quarters in East Jerusalem)

For nearly four decades, the efforts of American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai have been instrumental in meeting the social, recreational, and educational needs of the families and Yeshiva students who have returned to areas that were once predominantly Jewish.



Our Kotel Compass



Always pointing in the direction of Jerusalem (and follows the halacha in Israel). A phone app and companion for your trip to Israel. The Kotel Compass App (Available in the ISTORE or ANDROID MARKET is free and you can book your tour from the App.

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תשע"ה- 5775

May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), of Hashem. (ה')

May G-d's City - Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for Am Yisrael.
Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious educational institutes.
Lehitraot BaAretz

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