



Parshat Tazria — Nisan 1, 5779— April 5, 2019

YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHERRY HILL

Dvar Torah: Shimon Pichette

Shabbos Times

Candle Lighting	7:10 pm
Mincha & Maariv	7:10 pm
Sunset	7:28 pm
Shacharis	8:30 am
Jr Minyan R' Binyamin	9:45 am
Shabbos Groups	9:45 am
Rabbi's Navi Shiur	6:30 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm
Maariv	8:11 pm
Shabbos Ends	8:20 pm

In this week's parsha, we learn about the laws of a *metzora* whose skin, clothing, or home turns white and is pronounced *tamei* (spiritually impure). In Bamidbar 12:12, when Miriam gets *tzora'as* for speaking *lashon horah* against Moshe Rabeinu, Aharon Ha'Kohen says "*Al nah tehi k'meis*, please let her not be like a corpse". One's mind can easily conjure the scene in *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, when the eponymous alien's skin turns white as he is weakening toward death.

Conversely, just a short few months ago, many of us wore white on Yom Kippur for the purposes of demonstrating our *teharah* (spiritual purity) and forgiveness. LeHavdel, we can think of the color white in this context in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* as we saw Gandalf the Grey rejoin the Fellowship as the more powerful Gandalf the White after defeating the Balrog in Moria, of course.

How then, can we reconcile what the color white means in a spiritual context? Does it represent life and *teharah* or death and *tumah*?

Rav Aharon Loiansky explains that the color white represents the weakening of the physical body which can be manifested in two ways. The body becomes weakened in a negative way when one succumbs to physical or spiritual sickness and turns white to represent a loss of *chiyus* or life force which is a form of *tumah*. The body can also become weakened in a positive way when a person's *neshamah* draws closer to Hashem. Many *Gedolei Yisrael* throughout the generations have been able to demonstrate an astounding amount of energy and stamina despite their bodies appearing pale and weak.

Thus, we should all strive toward achieving a level of holiness where our *neshamos* are closer to Hashem through the study of Torah and the performance of *mitzvos* in order to strengthen ourselves and move toward the *teharah* and *chiyus* instead of leading lives engrossed in speaking *lashon horah* which leads to *tumah* and death.

Pesach Issue, April 20th, will be a double issue including the week for April 27th. All submissions are due TUESDAY APRIL 16th by 4PM.

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Next Week

Shacharis (Sun)	8:30 am
Shacharis (Mon- Fri)	6:45 am
Mincha & Maariv	7:10 pm
Mincha & Maariv (Fri)	7:10 pm
Nightfall/Shma after	8:05 pm
Kollel Maariv (Sun-Tues)	9:15 pm
Gemara Makos— Men (Mon)	8:30 pm

Newsletter submissions deadline 4:00 pm Thursdays.

Kiddish is sponsored by Duke McCarthy: All glory, honor, blessings, and praise to the most High G-d in Heaven above. May He bless all Israel and the Jewish people with health, wealth, and Torah as they strive to shine His light throughout the world. Especially Young Israel and families on this beautiful shabbat day given to the Jewish people for a blessing. Please, Amen.