

BE A MENTSCH

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Mitzvos are Beautiful!

פְּרִישֵׁת בַּמִּדְבָּר

Whenever we place an item in a beautiful case or bag, it creates a sense of importance for the object. If we choose a favorite color or a particular material to adorn the cover, it creates a unique connection between the owner and the particular article. Most importantly, if we move, it travels in dignity. In this week's Parsha, פְּרִישֵׁת בַּמִּדְבָּר, we learn about the mitzvah of קְדוּשָׁה תִשְׁמִינֵי, having special coverings for all the different כְּלִים that were in the מִשְׁכָּן. When בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל had to journey from one place to the next, they just didn't carry different כְּלִים as they were when they were put into use. First, the כַּהֲנָיִם had to cover each one of the כְּלִים in different colored woolen fabrics. When this was completed, the בְּנֵי קְהֵל would carry them.

All the כְּלִים, except for the מְנוּרָה, had poles with which the קְהֵל could hold on to so that they could carry the individual כְּלִים. In the case of the מְנוּרָה, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל had to make a special sack from the leather of the *Tachash* animal because the מְנוּרָה didn't have any poles attached to it. The מְנוּרָה hung from a pole which two people could carry, and the מְנוּרָה and all its serving parts were carefully inserted into it. This method ensured that the מְנוּרָה was transported in a "**Bekovodik**" manner!

Similarly, we cover items that are קְדוּשָׁה or מְצוּת with special coverings. Sifrei Torah, Tefillin, Mezuzos, Tzitzis, Esrogim, Megilos, Shofaros and many others items are covered to protect them and treat them with respect. This we do with Siddurim and Machzorim as well as our Shabbos Table, where we can see our Challos have a beautiful cover too. **Being a Mentsch** means that we know how to protect and decorate the beautiful objects that Hashem has given us. ***We show that our Mitzvos are important to us.*** This is the meaning of "זֶה קְלִי וְאֶגְדָּהוּ" – This is my Hashem and I will beautify Him. As we prepare for Yom Tov, please be careful to decorate our homes with flowers, plants or green leaves for Shavuos and for Matan Torah so that we remember the חֲשִׁיבוֹת הַתּוֹרָה!

Have a Great Shabbos and Yom Tov!