

## Parshat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

### Honoring Elders

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There are many Mitzvot in this week's Parsha starting with the commandment to be holy. This is a precedent for the other mitzvot in the Parsha including the mitzvah to rise for an elderly person. Rising in the presence of any person is certainly a sign of honor and respect. So what is it about a person who's achieved "old age" that Hashem tells the Jewish people that he should be so respected? At the end of the verse, it says to revere Hashem. What do these two concepts have to do with another?

Experience in life is something that can't be bought. A person who toils and struggled has achieved success and can now pass it on to younger people. Rashi in the Talmud Kiddushin explains that for an elderly person who is a sage, you should honor him as well by standing up for him. This person is emulating Hashem and that is exactly why the Torah puts them together. It would be very difficult to get through life without asking someone with experience for help so Hashem is pointing us in the right direction by honoring elderly sages.

### Parsha Questions

- 1) What does Kedoshim mean? (To be separate and holy)
  
- 2) How do we become separate and be holy? (To do Mitzvot and stay away from sins)
  
- 3) If a farmer drops a stalk of grain on the ground, what happens to the stalk? (He leaves it for the poor people)
  
- 4) If you tell a person that someone else said something bad about them, what is it called? (Rechilut)
  
- 5) What is nekama? (Revenge- doing something bad to someone because they did something bad to you first)
  
- 6) We are not allowed to wear shatnez. What is it? (a mixture of wool and linen)
  
- 7) When someone plants a fruit tree, how many years is the fruit not allowed to be eaten? (3)

8) What do we do when a Talmud Chachom (Torah scholar) walks into the room we are in? (stand up)