

## Parshat Shemini

### Teshuva: Picking Oneself Up

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In this week's Parsha, Parshat Shemini, we learn about the eight days of the inauguration of the Mishkan. Hashem instructed Moshe to erect and take down the Mishkan each of these days with the exception of the last day, Rosh Chodesh Nissan, where Moshe was told to keep it up. The question arises: why did Moshe have to constantly erect and take down the Mishkan each day? The verse in Mishle teaches that a Tzadik falls seven times and then gets up. Rav Hutner explains that in order for one to become a Tzadik, a righteous person, it is inevitable that he will fall. The difference between a Tzadik and an ordinary person is that a Tzadik will pick himself up. The Mishkan was an atonement for the Chet HaEgel, the sin of the golden calf. Even though the Jewish people sinned, they did Teshuva and picked themselves up. Moshe Rabeinu took down the Mishkan seven times to teach us this lesson. We also learn in the Parsha about Kosher and non Kosher animals. One of the animals that is not kosher is a pig because even though its hooves are split, it does not chew its cud. Why is there at least one sign of purity in the pig? The answer is because when one pushes a pig away, it returns as noted in its name, chazir, which means to return. When one returns and does Teshuva, he or she is pure. May we merit to instill this lesson to do Teshuva and to pick oneself up by following the Torah and the Mitzvot!

## Parsha Questions

- 1) Which sons of Aharon passed away? (Nadav and Avihu)
- 2) How did Aharon react to their death? (He was silent and accepted the decree)
- 3) What day did they pass away? (Rosh Chodesh Nissan)
- 4) What are the signs of a kosher animal? (Split hooves and chews its cud)
- 5) Give examples of kosher animals (Cow, goat, sheep, deer)
- 6) Which animal has a split hoof but does not chew its cud? (Pig)
- 7) Give examples of non-kosher animals? (Pig, horse, camel)
- 8) What are the signs of a kosher fish? (Fins and scales)