

Parshat Naso

Creating One's Own Kedusha

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In this weeks Parsha, Parshat Naso, we learn about the Nazir who is not permitted to cut his hair or drink wine. He is also not permitted to attend the cemetery for the funeral of his seven closest relatives. The question arises: Why is an ordinary Kohen allowed to attend the cemetery for the funeral of his seven closest relatives while a Nazir is not permitted to? Perhaps, it should be the opposite: a Kohen was born as one who is holy, while a Nazir is holy for only a certain period of time? The Sfas Emes explains that a Nazir is somewhat on a higher level since he created his own kedusha, holiness. For example, let's take two people: Reuven and Shimon. Reuven was born into a wealthy family and he inherited his family business, while Shimon grew up in poverty and became wealthy from becoming a successful business. One would probably admire Shimon more because he had to work harder to create his own name. In the Shirat Hayam, which we recite every morning, we say that Hashem is the G-d of our fathers. It also states that Hashem is our G-d and we have to glorify Him. Which G-d is Hashem? Is Hashem the G-d of our fathers or is he our G-d? The answer is that Hashem serves as both the G-d of our fathers and our own

G-d. We have to take what we have learned from our parents, Rebbeim, teachers and others and channel those strengths properly. It is our job to take what was given to us and create our own Kedusha with it.

