

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Shmini

For the week ending 24 Nissan 5759  
9 & 10 April 1999

### Parsha Questions

1. What date was "yom hashmini"?
2. Which of Aharon's *korbanos* atoned for the golden calf?
3. What *korbanos* did Aharon offer for the Jewish People?
4. What was unique about the *chatas* offered during the induction of the *Mishkan*?
5. When did Aharon bless the people with the *birkas kohanim*?
6. Why did Moshe go into the *Ohel Mo'ed* with Aharon?
7. Why did Nadav and Avihu die?
8. Aharon quietly accepted his sons' death. What reward did he receive for this?
9. What prohibitions apply to a person who is intoxicated?
10. Name the three *chatas* goat offerings that were sacrificed on the day of the inauguration of the *Mishkan*.
11. Which he-goat *chatas* did Aharon burn completely and why?
12. Why did Moshe direct his harsh words at Aharon's sons?
13. Moshe was upset that Aharon and his sons did not eat the *chatas*. Why?
14. Why did Hashem choose Moshe, Aharon, Elazar, and Isamar as His messengers to tell the Jewish People the laws of *kashrus*?
15. What are the signs of a kosher land animal?
16. How many non-kosher animals display only *one* sign of *kashrus*? What are they?
17. If a fish sheds its fins and scales when out of the water, is it kosher?
18. Why is a stork called *chasida* in Hebrew?
19. The *chagav* is a kosher insect. Why don't we eat it?
20. What requirements must be met in order for water to maintain its status of purity?

### I Did Not Know That!

**"Moshe asked: 'Why didn't you eat the sin offering?' Aharon answered: 'Were I to have eaten this day's sin offering, would Hashem approve?' Moshe heard and he approved." (10:17-20)**

Our Sages explain that the above exchange between Moshe and Aharon was actually a halachic dialogue regarding the question: Was Aharon, while mourning for his yet unburied sons, allowed to eat from the special inaugural offerings?

This is the first place in the Torah text where we find the classic exercise of Torah Sheba'al Peh, the Oral Law, in which reasoning is used to ascertain the halacha.

Rabbi Tzaddok Hakohen

### Recommended Reading List

#### Ramban

- 9:17 Relation of *Miluim* and *Shemini Korbanos* to *Tamid*  
10:15 Heaving and Waving

#### Sefer Hachinuch

- 149 Dignity in the House of Hashem  
150 Respect for the Service

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Parshas **Shmini** — 24 Nissan 5759, 9 & 10 April 1999

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# Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

1. 9:1 - First of Nissan.
2. 9:2 - The calf offered as a *korban chatas*.
3. 9:3,4 - A he-goat as a *chatas*, a calf and a lamb for an *olah*, an ox and a ram for *shelamim*, and a *minchah*.
4. 9:11 - It's the only example of a *chatas* offered on the courtyard *mizbe'ach* that was burned.
5. 9:22 - When he finished offering the *korbanos*, before descending from the *mizbe'ach*.
6. 9:23 - For one of two reasons: Either to teach Aharon about the service of the incense, or to pray for the *Shechina* to dwell with Israel.
7. 10:2 - Rashi offers two reasons: Either because they gave a halachic ruling in Moshe's presence, or because they entered the *Mishkan* after drinking intoxicating wine.
8. 10:3 - A portion of the Torah was given solely through Aharon.
9. 10:9-11 - He may not give a *halachic* ruling. Also, a *kohen* is forbidden to enter the *Ohel Mo'ed*, approach the *mizbe'ach*, or perform the *avoda*.
10. 10:16 - The goat offerings of the inauguration ceremony, of *Rosh Chodesh*, and of Nachshon ben Aminadav.
11. 10:16 - The *Rosh Chodesh chatas*: Either because it became *tamei*, or because the *kohanim* were forbidden to eat from it while in the state of *aninus* (mourning).
12. 10:16 - Out of respect for Aharon, Moshe directed his anger at his sons and not directly at Aharon.
13. 10:17 - Because only when the *kohanim* eat the *chatas* are the sins of the owners atoned.
14. 11:2 - Because they accepted the deaths of Nadav and Avihu in silence.
15. 11:3 - An animal whose hooves are completely split and who chews its cud.
16. 11:4,5,6,7 - Four: Camel, shafan, hare, and pig.
17. 11:12 - Yes.
18. 11:19 - Because it acts with *chesed* (kindness) toward other storks regarding food.
19. 11:21 - We have lost the tradition and are not able to identify the kosher *chagav*.
20. 11:36 - It must be connected to the ground (i.e., a spring or a cistern).