

### Answers

- 1) The golden *AronKodesh*, which cased the *luchot* was placed in the holiest place in the world -the *Kodesh Kodoshim*-Holy of Holies. This *Aron Kodesh* had the faces of children (boy and girl) on its angelic figures. This symbolized that the pure Torah of school children is most special, and above all Torah learning. After all the entire world exists in the merit of Yeshiva students!
- 2) If a Kohen was an *am ha'aretz* (unlearned person who did not immerse in the mikvah before entering the Bet Hamikdash) would touch the golden Menorah by the holidays, the miraculous fire would extinguish. This symbolized that miracles happen when the Bnei Yisroel are pure.
- 3) The second Bet Hamikdash was not as holy as the first one; mainly because the Kohanim were not on the great stature as by the first Bet Hamikdash. Many of the Kohanim were *amei ha'aretz* and fakers. It was a great pity since Kohanim are supposed to be the most devoted and knowledgeable in Torah. By the *Aron* not being there, it showed that there was a serious decline of Torah wisdom too.
- 4) When Moshiach comes and the third Bet Hamikdash will be built, a stream of water will flow from the *Kodesh Kodoshim* out into the world. It will heal the sick and make bodies of salty waters sweet... This will show that all life and blessing is from Hashem.
- 5) There is a dispute amongst the Rabbis as to who will build the third Bet Hamikdash: Some say human hands, men women, and children will build it. Others believe that it is being built in heaven, and will descend from heaven surrounded by fire in the future. Tradition has it that every *misvah* we do and every Mishnah we learn adds a brick to the Bet Hamikdash on high. But every *aveira* and especially *bitul* Torah removes bricks postponing the construction.
- 6) Besalel the chief architect was the grandson of Hur. Hur was murdered in cold blood as he protested the terrible acts of the *erev rav*-the ones that built the *egel*- the golden calf by *Har Sinai*. Hashem does not let any good deed go unrewarded. Hashem promised that many great people will descend from Hur, who will have great names in *Klal Yisroel*. To mention a few: Besalel was one of his descendants, King David was another, and Rashi was a third.
- 7) David Hamelech had an incredible *midah tovah* that he was very quick when it came to carry out plans to honor Hashem. He used to swear that he would not eat or sleep until he fulfilled a *misvah*... Dovid Hamelech requested permission to build the Bet Hamikdash and was granted it by Natan Hanavi. Hashem immediately told Natan to rush and tell David that he would not be the one to build the Bet Hamikdash, but rather his son Shlomo would. Hashem said "This man is very fast and is a promiser who will swear that he won't eat or sleep until he sees his ambitions developing. Before he contracts all the builders and designers stop him, in order that he not lose respect or financial loss."
- 8) On Tisha B'Ab we mourn the fact that Hashem does not have His home on earth. On Tu B'Ab the very week of Tisha B'Ab they used to get married to show Hashem that even if He does not have His home on earth, we want Him in our home, which we hope is a *Mishkan me'at*.
- 9) Moshe's *Mishkan* was far more holy than the Bet Hamikdash. Therefore, Hashem did not allow goyim to touch his work. Also, the Bnei Yisroel gave the donations for the *Mishkan* much more wholeheartedly than the donations that were given later to the Bet Hamikdash. Therefore the donated money that was used for the Bet Hamikdash was eventually desecrated by the *goyim*.
- 10) Gold is beautiful, however it is not alive. Torah is precious and beautiful, but we place it in a wooden box surrounded by golden boxes, because wood was alive in its plant form. This implies that Torah must be learned in a lively manner with enthusiasm and with our whole being.
- 11) The Menorah was the symbol of wisdom, which is represented by light. There are seven main parts of Torah: *Humash, Navi, Ketubim, Mishnah, Gemara, Halacha, and Kabbalah*. This is the light that can illuminate our dark *galut*. One should excel in all areas of Torah and especially Mishna as we know all the flames turned towards the center branch.
- 12) Of all the walls that were used for the Bet Hamikdash, the *Kotel* was donated by the poorest Jews, (who perhaps did not even create a wall as magnificent as the other walls). But since it was given with all their humbleness, love and sacrifice it was most dear to Hashem and He swore that His *Shechina* presence would never leave their wall.
- 13) The holy fire that was upon the *Mizbeyah* would not cause any harm to a human being. It was a fire of a different nature. It is for that very reason that this constant fire that stayed burning on the *Misbeyah* for hundreds' of years did not melt through.
- 14) When we study about the Bet Hamikdash we are credited as if we rebuilt it! It also demonstrates our strong belief and trust that once again Hashem will welcome us into His palace.

- 15) When the Bnei Yisroel obeyed Hashem's Torah the *Kerubim* would face each other, but if they did not get along with each other or follow their rabbi's, then the golden *Kerubim* would miraculously turn away from each other. Before the Bet Hamikdash was destroyed when the sins of the Bnei Yisroel climaxed the golden *Kerubim* were about to turn away from each other, because Hashem was upset with His people. Before they turned away they hugged each other, to show that even when Hashem was upset he still loves the Bnei Yisroel.
- 16) The head where the brain is located symbolizes the *neshama* (the spiritual) and the body symbolizes the physical; A lion is different than a dog in its figure by the fact that the head is the largest part of its body while its body is narrow. A dog however is narrow at the head and in the body. During the first Bet Hamikdash the Jews were more spiritual, where as in the time of the second Bet Hamikdash the physical needs were given equal status as their spiritual needs.
- 17) The *misvah* "Make me a Sanctuary so that I will dwell in your midst..." was done seven times in history.
- 18) It was very large and the Bnei Yisroel could not put it up alone, only when Moshe Rabbeinu came with his tall stature and his spiritual greatness was he able to erect it properly. This showed the Bnei Yisroel that you can not build any dwelling for Hashem without it being supported by the approval and assistance of a rabbi.
- 19) The components of the *Mishkan* were really completed by the 25<sup>th</sup> of *Kislev* (which is Hanukah). However the *Mishkan* was not to be set up until the month of *Nisan*. Since the month of *Nisan* was the month that Yishak Abinu was born. For he was the greatest role model in history of someone willing to sacrifice himself to Hashem. The Bet Hamikdash, which was a place of sacrifice from abroad, needed to be put up in his month. To show that ultimately a human being should sacrifice his whole life to Hashem, not just the sacrifice of animals and birds. In honor of the almost human sacrifice, his month was the perfect time to set up the Bet Hamikdash.
- 20) There were 13 tables in the Bet Hamikdash: 8 marble ones were in the butcher area. Two more by the ramp of the *mizbeyah*, one marble and one silver. Two more at the entrance of the *Ulam*, one marble and one gold. The thirteenth was the famous gold one for the Showbread of the Kohanim.
- 21) The *Aron Kodesh* had two angelic figures upon it, which faced each other. This symbolized that Torah, which was inside the *Aron*, should be learned with another person, or with a group, and most important of all with a Rebbe.
- Some say that when we learn from good *sefarim* it is also like learning with a good *habruta*- learning partner. The *kerubim* also symbolized the Yissachar/Zevulun team that make Torah scholarship possible!
- 22) Hashem wants us to honor Torah scholars, even more than we honor the Torah. However sometimes when a *Talmid Hacham* gets old, he forgets Torah, so someone might come to disrespect him. Therefore Hashem showed that even the broken *luchot* were kept in the Holy of Holies to be honored. So too we should honor a *Talmid Hacham* even though he might have forgot his Torah learning, due to illness or old age.
- 23) ?
- 24) Rabbi Hoshaya was dismayed at the use of community monies to build a multi-million-dollar building to be a house of worship and study. The money could have been used to build a simpler building and use the money to support Torah scholars, that they be able to study day and night and give over the teachings of the Torah to the community. That would be far more beautiful than some extravagant building without teams of Torah scholars constantly learning Torah within.
- 25) The *Aron Kodesh* reminded us that a person should feel that his wisdom is incomplete. He must always feel that he is inadequate and therefore go to many Torah scholars to educate him better that he may learn more. The Torah is wider than the earth and deeper than the ocean and therefore a person should never feel his knowledge is sufficient. He should always try all types Torah classes, in order to enrich his wisdom and fear of Hashem. Thehalves also remind us that we should have humility and not arrogance.
- 26) There were vines of grapes made out of gold, hanging on the entrance of the Bet Hamikdash. Miraculously these golden vines would grow as if they were real plants. The *pirchei kehuna* would be able to pluck a golden grape off the vine sell it and make a fortune, as a treat for serving in Hashem's palace.
- 27) The *Sasgvana* was a unique creature that was multi-colored and very beautiful. Its hide was used to cover the *Mishkan*, with a beautiful array of colors. This creature was only in this world until the time of Moshe Rabbeinu. The purpose was exclusively for Hashem's *Mishkan*. Thereafter it became extinct. (Some say it was a type of unicorn, because it is mentioned that it had one horn).
- 28) Since David Hamelech fought wars, he was not given permission to build the Bet Hamikdash. Even though it was a *misvah* that he was fighting enemies of the Jewish people, still, it had to be made by someone of peace like Shlomo Hamelech. Another reason is that if David

Hamelech had built the Bet Hamikdash, Hashem would never let it be destroyed; it would have been too holy. Hashem knew that the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash would be *kaparah*-atonement to the Jewish people, so instead of them being punished, the Holy Temple would be destroyed. David was too good to build the Bet Hamikdash. Third, when David killed Goliath and after he won battles, the Jewish women would throw their money at him. He collected so much money and he stored it in a treasure house, but when there was a hunger and famine and poor people needed more charity David Hamelech refused to use the money he reserved for the Bet Hamikdash. Hashem however despised this money because it is more important to give *sedaka*-charity to the poor and the needy than to build the Bet Hamikdash!

29) A Kohen who had a *baal mum*- imperfection once found the secret hiding place of the *Aron Kodesh* and died before he got a chance to show it to others. His death was to protect the location from the goyim who might want to desecrate it. The *Aron Kodesh* was under one of the tiles in the Bet Hamikdash in the wood storage room. So Raban Gamliel and Rav Hananya's families used to bow in honor when they passed by the wood room of the Bet Hamikdash.

30)?

31) The Kohen Gadol-High Priest used to bring the *Ketoret* to the *Kodesh Kidoshim* on Yom Kippur. *Ketoret* is Hashem's favorite *Korban*. When he was walking in the *Kodesh Kidoshim* there was no space to go around the *Aron Kodesh* because its poles stretched from one wall into the other, so a miracle had to happen that he walked right through the golden poles.

32) On the shelosh regalim they used to lift up the *perochet* -curtain for the Bnei Yisroel to see the *Aron* in the *Kodesh Kidoshim* and to get *hizuk* seeing them facing each other to show Hashem's tremendous love for His people.

33) ?

34) It says when Bnei Yisroel worked to make Hashem the *Mishkan*, Hashem's presence dwelled with them, so from here we see that Hashem loves work.

35) Just as the golden *Kerubim* lifted their wings upward but faced each other, so too the good Jew is constantly elevating himself to honor Hashem while also concerned with his fellowman. The *misvot* between man and God, and man and his fellow man are one. A person cannot be called a *sadik* unless he master's both types of *misvot*.

36) The Kohanim that escorted the *Aron Kodesh* were actually not carrying it, it carried them, as was obvious when they got to a river or to a valley that the *Aron* just

floated in the air and carried them more comfortably than a helicopter or an airplane.

37) (There is a long discription in the works of the Hidda, which can not fit in the scope of this work.)

38) The *Aron Kodesh* is either in a tunnel buried under the *Har Habait*, or some say it was taken into captivity at the Vatican in Rome.

39) Uzza was escorting the *Aron Kodesh* when David Hamelech was bringing it back to Bnei Yisroel. They made a mistake by putting the *Aron* on a new wagon drawn by cows, instead of people carrying it. The cow stumbled and it appeared as if it would fall, Uzza grabbed it and immediately was killed from heaven. This was a *hillul* Hashem to act as if the Torah needs your help. Really we need the Torah's help for its what carries and sustains us.

40) *Am Yisroel* has many different types of Jews. Some Jews specialize in *tefillah*, others in gemara, others in *hesed*-charitable work etc. This shows that we are a nation of many rich colors. The roof of the *Mishkan* was colorful to show Hashem that His people are all beautiful together, as you look at the complete spectrum of Judaism.

41) *Mesechet Midot* is the story of the design, structure and function of the Bet Hamikdash.

42) When the delicious *manna* came down from heaven there was at the same time precious jewels that came down and the *sadikim* gathered them to be used for the future *Mishkan*.

43)?

44) No

45) Hashem wants His presence to rest in each and every Jew, not in just a building, such as the Bet Hamikdash, or a synagogue.

46) If someone had a purer intention in donating to the Bet Hamikdash, the money would then go to a more special component of the *Mishkan*.

47) The *bechorot*-first born said, "vay" when the *Mishkan* was made because they would not be able to officiate anymore bringing *korbanot*. Until the *Mishkan* was made the Bnei Yisroel were allowed to make their *bama*-altar and the *bechorot* would officiate, but once the *Mishkan* was made they said "vay" we lost the privilege to serve Hashem as a Kohen.

48) Five months.s

- 49) Two, one that stayed in the *Mishkan*, and one that went to war before the Bnei Yisroel to protect them.
- 50) The angels in heaven came down and assisted in the construction of the Bet Hamikdash.

May we merit the avodah of the Bet Hashem, Amen!