

Laws & Customs

Clothing

The priests and high priests were required to wear special clothing when performing their service in the Holy Temple. One of the reasons given for this is so that the Jews would recognize the priests as holy people, devoted to the service of G-d. Similarly, the Torah scholars of Ancient Babylonia would dress impressively to encourage people to honor the Torah that they represented. In fact, the Talmud requires that a Torah scholar's clothes be impeccably clean. Rabbi Yochanan would refer to his clothing as "*mechabduta*"—that which gives honor.

• One should be careful not to wear their clothing inside out, as this can cause people to look at the wearer with disdain. Also, one shouldn't put on two articles of clothing at one instant. According to our sages, doing so has an undesirable spiritual effect that can cause memory loss.

• One should wear special clothes on Shabbat in honor of the holy day. These clothes should be clean, and nicer than one's weekday clothes. Aside from befitting the holy day the clothes will remind the wearer to observe the Shabbat laws. Some people are even careful to wear a special shirt, belt, hat, and tallit on Shabbat.



Cover Story

What makes the headlines today is the news that creates the loudest noise. Unfortunately, over 70% of that noise comes from negative reports. It may be true that negativity attracts more attention, but the Torah teaches us to focus on the positive.

When the Torah describes the robe that the High Priest would use, it says that there should be bells sewn on the hem of the garment. The bells would make noise when the High Priest would enter the holy place. When it comes to something holy - we should let ourselves be heard. When we are arguing, our voices don't always have to be the loudest in the crowd. But when we say good things and pray our voices should be heard loud and clear."

Saying things loud and clear shows that we are excited and proud of what we are doing. That's how we should feel about studying and doing good deeds. The people around us will hear the excitement in our voices and see how proud we are to do good deeds. This will encourage them to also do good deeds.

Questions & Comments should be sent to MaNews@ymail.com

"ו' אדר א' - ת"ח
February 11-12 2011
Candle Lighting
17:50
Shabbat Ends
18:45

**In Honor of the
Klein Family**

Bottom Line

In 1910, the czarist government convened a "rabbinical conference." to force changes in Jewish religious life. To Rabbi Sholom the issue was a matter of spiritual life and death. Throughout the conference, he fought against the government's plans. When he rose to speak, he unequivocally stated:

"True, we live under the dominion of the Russian government. But their jurisdiction over us extends only to material matters. In all that concerns our faith, no sovereign or regime on earth has the authority to dictate over us."

So deeply did Rabbi Sholom feel for the matter that at the end of his impassioned speech he fainted.

He was immediately placed under house arrest for his words. Later one of the leading rabbis of the time came to see him. The visitor found Rabbi Sholom weeping, and exclaimed "why are you so distressed? You have done everything you possibly can!"

The Rabbi utterly failed to see his point. "So what?" Rabbi Shalom said. "The tragic decree has been enacted."

Saying

"Excuses may be helpful in absolving one from responsibility and culpability. But the best excuse in the world cannot undo a negative occurrence or recreate a missed opportunity."

Chassidic Saying