

Laws & Customs

Leadership Inheritance

In Jewish law, we find that certain positions are passed from father to son while others are not.

King

If a son is worthy (meaning G-d fearing), he inherits his father's position as king. This is even in the case where he is not as intelligent as his father. In the Northern Kingdom of Israel, we often find that prophets would anoint new kings instead of continuing the existing dynasties, because the children were unworthy of monarchy. If the firstborn is worthy, he becomes the next king, but if he's not, the position is passed on to one of the other children, with the older ones getting precedence over the younger ones. Thus we find that King David chose Solomon to become king after him, even though he was not the firstborn.

Religious Positions

Positions of religious leadership, on the other hand, were generally not inherited. This is because the Torah is considered "free" for all those who wish to acquire it. Thus we find that, despite Moses' request, G-d insisted that his position of leadership be inherited by Joshua, his student, rather than by his own son.



Staying Focused

Every sacrifice has a specific time frame that it can be offered and should be eaten. Some are to be brought and eaten on the same day, while others have a longer duration to be eaten. For example, the peace-offering is a sacrifice that can be eaten only in two days. If it is eaten on the third day then it does not serve its purpose and is considered *Pigul*, invalid.

It is not only our improper actions that can invalidate the sacrifice, but even our improper thoughts. If the *Kohen* were to bring the peace-offering and only think that the sacrifice would be eaten on the third day, the sacrifice is considered *Pigul*. It is considered invalid even on day one.

This law teaches us the importance of focusing on what we are doing at any given moment. We tend to be multi-tasked and want to do our jobs quickly. However, many times we end up accomplishing less than we could have had we been focused.

It is told that the Rashba's daily schedule consisted of giving a lecture three times a day, answering Torah questions, personal studies, and practicing as a healer. In addition to the above he also would go for a walk every day. How did he do it? He was focused on the moment and lived the moment.

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

י"ב - י"ג אדר ב'

March 18-19 2011

Candle Lighting

7:14

Shabbat Ends

8:08

**In Honor of the
Klein Family**

Tears

Before Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov went public with his teachings and established the chassidic movement, he served as a shochet (ritual slaughterer) in a small village in the Ukraine. After he left his post, the village hired another shochet to slaughter their cattle and fowl.

One day, a villager sent one of his non-Jewish laborers with a chicken to the shochet. But the laborer returned with the bird still very squawkingly alive. "This new fellow you got," he explained, "is no good."

"Why?" asked the villager.

"Oh no," said the laborer "From me he'll get no chickens to slaughter. He stands there with a pitcher, and uses ordinary water from the well to sharpen his knife! Rabbi Israel would sharpen the knife with his tears..."

Saying

"It is better a little bit with Kavannah (correct intent) than a lot without Kavannah (proper intent)."

Rabbi Iosef Karo