Medrash: 2 books before and 2 books after (mistake to think you could take it out and you wouldn’t be misinsig anything) someof te mst beautiful social laws contained in this book

Only two maaratives: death of Nadav and Avihu and the blasphemer – why?

Whole book takes place on 1 day (with brief 7 day introduction)

**Tanach in two – Sefer VaYikra**

**Living Sanctity**

**Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich**

**I Introduction**

1. This Book gets a bad rap
   1. No narrative, boring, not relevant…
   2. But…contains 247 out of the 613 mitzvot

אָמַר רַבִּי אַסֵּי מִפְּנֵי מָה מַתְחִילִין לַתִּינוֹקוֹת בְּתוֹרַת כֹּהֲנִים וְאֵין מַתְחִילִין בִּבְרֵאשִׁית, אֶלָּא שֶׁהַתִּינוֹקוֹת טְהוֹרִין וְהַקָּרְבָּנוֹת טְהוֹרִין יָבוֹאוּ טְהוֹרִין וְיִתְעַסְּקוּ בִּטְהוֹרִים. (ויקרא רבה ז:ג)

Rabbi Asi said: Why is it that we start teaching children from Torat Kohanim (Vayikra) and not from Bereishit? It is because the children are pure and the offerings/sacrifices are pure. Let those who are pure come and toil (study) in that which is pure.

1. The names of the Book
   1. “Torat Kohanim” – The Laws of the Priests
      1. Most of the topics discuss the Mishkan and it’s functioning, the status and sanctity of the Kohanim, Laws that require Kohanim
         1. “Leviticus”, a word deriving from Greek and Latin, means “pertaining to the Levites”
      2. But not all, not even most mitzvot – at least 150 relevant to all Jews
   2. “VaYikra” – And He called to Moshe
      1. More than just coincidental

וַיִּקְרָ֖א אֶל מֹשֶׁ֑ה וַיְדַבֵּ֤ר ה' אֵלָ֔יו מֵאֹ֥הֶל מוֹעֵ֖ד לֵאמֹֽר׃

He called to Moshe and Hashem spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting, saying:

Rashi:

HE CALLED TO MOSHE — All oral communications of the L-rd to Moses whether they are introduced by דבר or by אמר or by צו were preceded by a call (to prepare him for the forthcoming address). It is a way of expressing affection and love, the mode used by the ministering angels when addressing each other, as it is said ([Isaiah 6:3](/Isaiah.6.3)) “And one called unto another [and said, Holy, holy, holy is the L-rd of Hosts]”.

To the prophets of the nations of the world, however, G-d revealed himself in a manner which the Torah describes by an expression ordinarily used for denoting events of a casual character and of uncleanness, as it is said, ([Numbers 23:4](/Numbers.23.4)) “and G-d happened to meet (ויקר) Balaam”

**Baal HaTurim:** Moses was both great and humble, and wanted only to write *Vayikar*, signifying “chance”, as if the Holy One blessed be He appeared to him only in a dream, as it says of Bilaam [*vayikar*, without an *aleph*] – suggesting that G-d appeared to him by mere chance. However, G-d told him to write the word with an *aleph*. Moses then said to Him, because of his extreme humility, that he would only write an aleph that was smaller than the other alephs in the Torah, and he did indeed write it small.

**II Content of the Sefer**

1. Basic Laws and Classifications of Korbanot and Offerings (Chap. 1-7)
   1. 5 primary Korbanot (see addendum)
2. Dedication of the Mishkan, Rosh Chodesh Nissan (Chap 8-10)
   1. 7 day sanctification of Kohanim
   2. Offerings of Dedication Day
   3. Disaster and tragedy (death of Aharon’s two sons)
3. Laws and Offerings relating to the Human Body (Chap 11-15)
   1. Kashrut – Permitted and forbidden foods
   2. Childbirth – impurity, purity, and offerings
   3. Tzara’at - diagnoses and purification
      1. (on houses as well)
   4. Impurity and Purification from emissions from reproductive organs
4. Sanctity of Temple (Chap 16-17)
   1. Yom Kippur Service
      1. Entering Holy of Holies, Two Goats
   2. Prohibition of Offerings outside the Temple
5. Social and Sexual Morality (Chap 18-20)
   1. Forbidden marriages and relationships
   2. The Holiness code
      1. Love your Neighbor, gifts to poor, honest dealings and weights, stumbling block, gossipmonger
6. More Laws of the Mishkan (Chap 21-24)
   1. Laws of the Kohen and Kohen Gadol
      1. Marriage, purity, Terumah
   2. Holidays and festival Offerings
   3. Menorah, Show Bread
   4. Story of the blasphemer
7. Shmitta and Yovel (Chap 25)
   1. Laws related to the 7 year cycle
8. Covenant Renewed and detailed (Chap 26)
   1. (Miraculous) Blessings if you listen, Curses if you don’t
9. Gifts to the Temple (Chap 27)
   1. Valuations of people based on age and gender
   2. Sanctification and redemption of animals, houses and fields

**III Some Themes**

1. Torat haKorbanot
   1. 9 times in the first 15 chapters
   2. The “Law” and not up for optional or people directed choices
      1. First timethe word “korban” is used in the Torah - closeness
2. Kedusha
   1. of the Mishkan itself (1-17)
   2. of living a life a Kedusha, even outside of the Mishkan (18-27)
   3. requires Havdalah – separation/boundaries
3. **Korban Olah – קרבן עולה**
   1. An Elevation Offering
      1. Completely burnt on the mizbaech
      2. Reflected complete and total submission before Hashem and recognition of His authority
   2. An animal – ox, lamb, goat, dove
   3. Examples:
      1. Communal offerings twice daily, musssaf
      2. After childbirth, metzorah, nazir, or any individual as an act of devotion
4. **Korban Mincha – קרבן מנחה**
   1. A Meal Offering
      1. Flour mixed with oil, some were baked, some raw
      2. A fistful was burnt on the alter, the rest eaten by the kohanim
   2. Two food products that require human work in their production – a dedication of man’s work to G-d’s service
   3. Examples:
      1. Kohen Gadol twice daily; new Kohen on first day of service
      2. Voluntary private offerings (if could not afford olah)
      3. Sotah
5. **Sin Offering – קרבן חטאת**
   1. To atone for inadvertent or accidental violations
   2. partly burnt, partly eaten by the Kohanim
   3. could be animal or flour
6. **Guilt Offering – קרבן אשם**
   1. Partially burnt and partially eaten by Kohanim
   2. A specific set of 5 violations, offered for atonement
7. **Peace Offering – קרבן שלמים**
   1. Partially burnt, partially eaten by Kohanim, partially eaten by its owners
   2. Voluntarily offered in gratitude and thanks
   3. Sometimes required in appreciation of being saved from danger