HADAR Children & Families

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 24

Because learning Torah is sweet

וַיַּקְהֵל Vayakhel

DeVASH

ב"ג - ב"ט אֲדָר א' תשפ"ד March 3 - 9, 2024

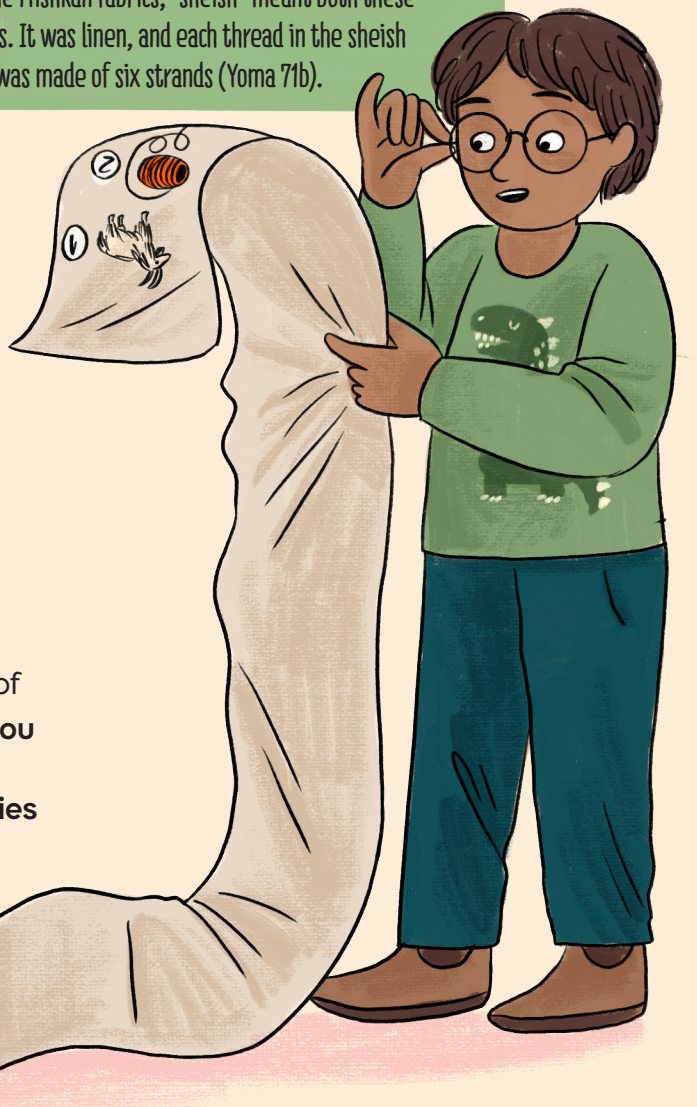
בּוֹאוּ נְדַבֵּר עַל זֶה • Tell Me More About This!

At the beginning of Vayakhel, Benei Yisrael donate all of the supplies needed for the construction of the מִשְׁכָּן (Mishkan, sanctuary for God).

- Precious metals: gold, silver, and copper
- Materials of **שֵׁשׁ (sheish, linen)** and עִזִּים (izzim, goats' hair) and wool in different colors—תְּכֵלֶת (tekhelet, a blue dye from the hilazon snail), אַרְגָּמָן (argaman, purple), and תּוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי (tola'at shani, red).
- Skins from rams and from an animal called a תַּחַשׁ (tahash) (What's this? See p. 3.)
- Wood
- Oil
- Spices
- Precious stones

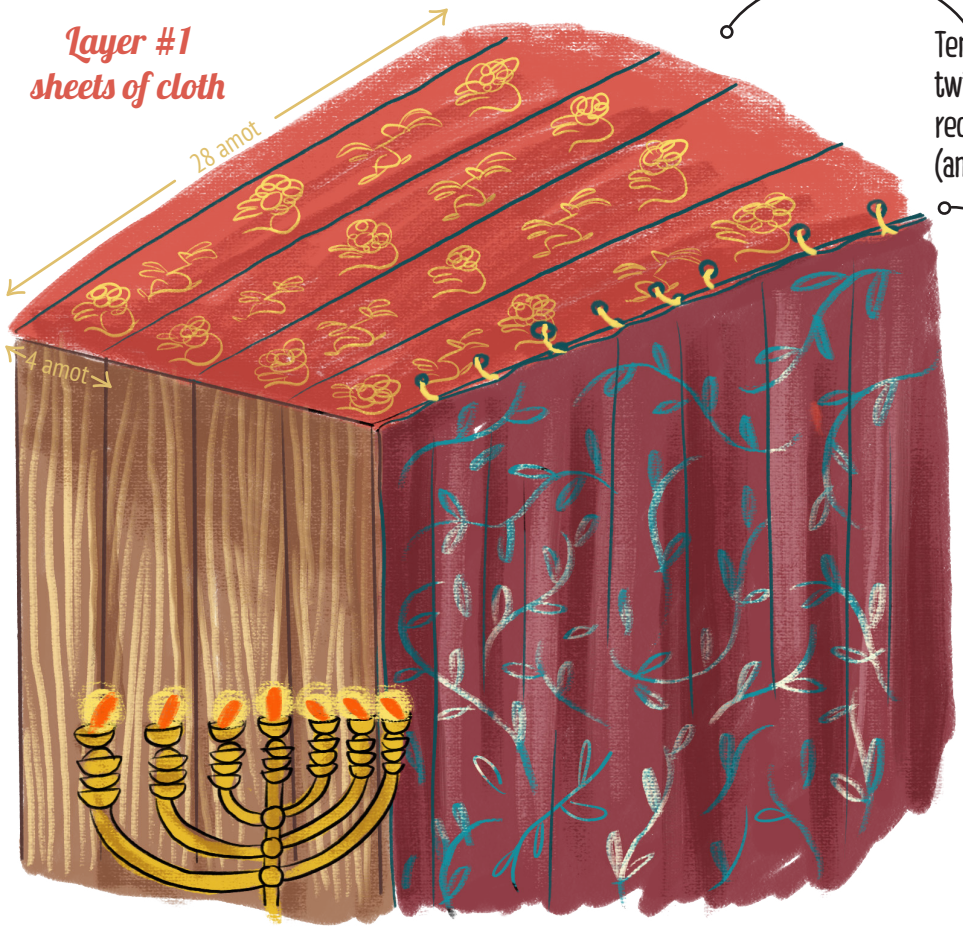
In Devash this week, we'll take a close look at the Mishkan's outer coverings and structures, and some of its smaller כֵּלִים (keilim, utensils). **As you read about these Mishkan parts, can you find where all the supplies on this list get used?**

The Hebrew word "sheish" has two meanings. It can be "linen," which is the plant that gets woven to make linen cloth. Or it can mean the number 6! Our Rabbis teach that, for the Mishkan fabrics, "sheish" meant both these things. It was linen, and each thread in the sheish yarn was made of six strands (Yoma 71b).



יְרִיעוֹת • The Mishkan's Coverings

The Mishkan had three top layers, which were placed on top of each other. Layer #1 was on the bottom, and you could see it only if you were inside the Mishkan.

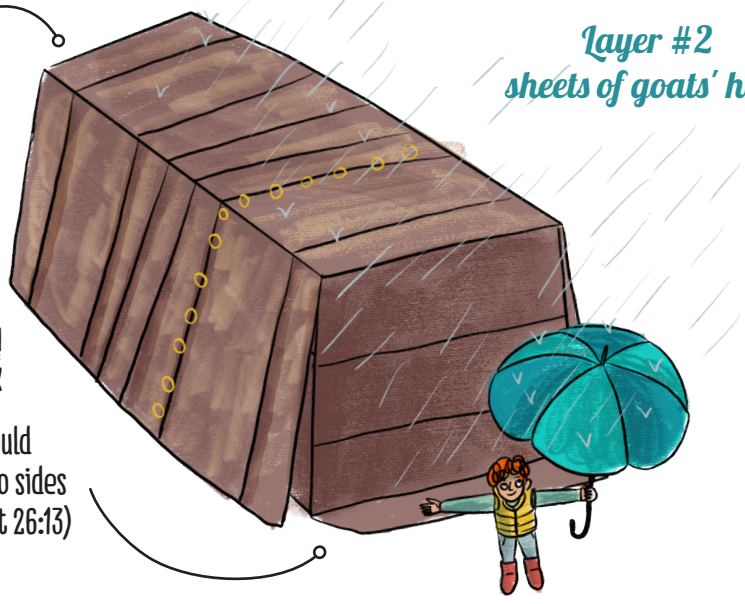


עֲשֶׂר יְרִיעֹת שֵׁשׁ מָשְׁזָר וּתְכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן
וְתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי כְּרֻבִים מַעֲשֵׂה חֹשֵׁב

Ten sheets of cloth, made of twisted linen, tekhelet, purple, and red wool, with designs of keruvim (angels or creatures) (Shemot 36:8)

חֲמִשִּׁים לֻלָאֹת עָשָׂה בַּיְרִיעָה
הָאֶחָת וַחֲמִשִּׁים לֻלָאֹת עָשָׂה בְקָצֵה
הַיְרִיעָה אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחְבֶּרֶת הַשֵּׁנִית....
וַיַּעַשׂ חֲמִשִּׁים קַרְסֵי זָהָב וַיְחַבֵּר אֶת
הַיְרִיעֹת אַחַת אֶל אַחַת בַּקָּרָסִים

They made fifty loops on one sheet of cloth, and they made fifty loops on the edge of the sheet of cloth on the other set.... They made fifty gold clasps and attached the sheets to one another with the clasps (Shemot 36:12–13)



וַיַּעַשׂ יְרִיעֹת עִזִּים לְאֹהֶל עַל הַמִּשְׁכָּן
עַשְׁתֵּי עֶשְׂרֵה יְרִיעֹת עָשָׂה אֹתָם

They made sheets of goats' hair for a tent over the Mishkan—eleven of them (Shemot 36:14)

וְהָאַמָּה מִזֶּה וְהָאַמָּה מִזֶּה... יִהְיֶה סָרוּחַ עַל
צִדֵּי הַמִּשְׁכָּן מִזֶּה וּמִזֶּה לְכַסֹּתוֹ

The extra amah at either end... should hang down to the bottom of the two sides of the Mishkan and cover it (Shemot 26:13)

Rashi says that we can learn a lesson from this second covering:

Rashi (France, 1,000 years ago)

The Torah teaches a rule of life: People should take care of beautiful things.

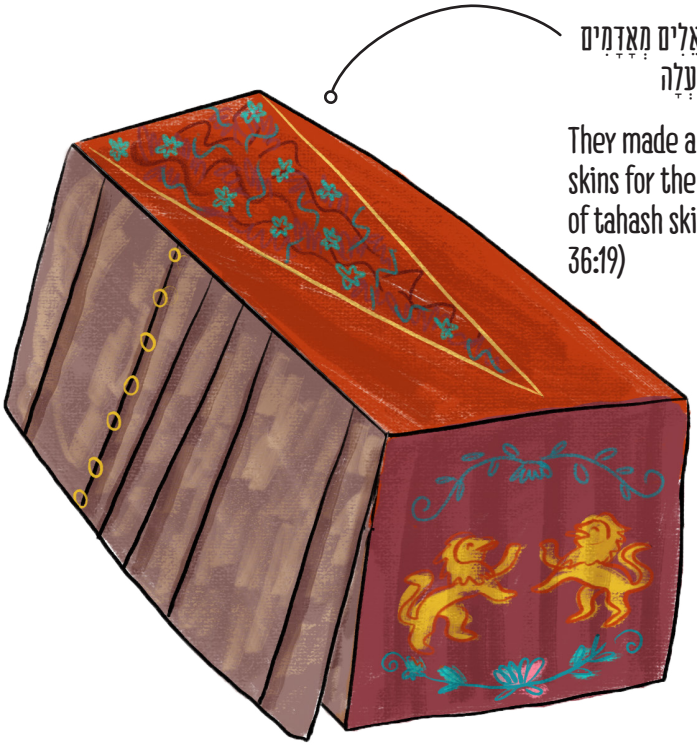
רש"י

לִמְּדָה תּוֹרָה דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ שֶׁיְּהֵא אָדָם חָס עַל הַיָּפֶה.

Covering #2 was like a raincoat. It protected covering #1, which was made from more beautiful materials and designs.

- Have you ever been worried that something beautiful that you made might get ruined? What did you do to protect it?
- What are some things you can do to protect beautiful things in our world?
- Why was it important for some parts of the Mishkan to be beautiful?

Layer #3
animal skin cover



וַיַּעַשׂ מִכְסֵה לָאֹהֶל עֹרֹת אֵלִים מְאָדָּמִים וּמִכְסֵה עֹרֹת תְּחָשִׁים מִלְמָעְלָה

They made a covering of red ram skins for the tent, and a covering of tahash skins above (Shemot 36:19)

We don't know exactly what these things looked like, but this is how R. Raphael Ricchi (300 years ago, Maaseh Hoshev, 4:7) thought it looked according to R. Nehemiah (Shabbat 28a).

What are עֹרֹת תְּחָשִׁים (tahash skins)?

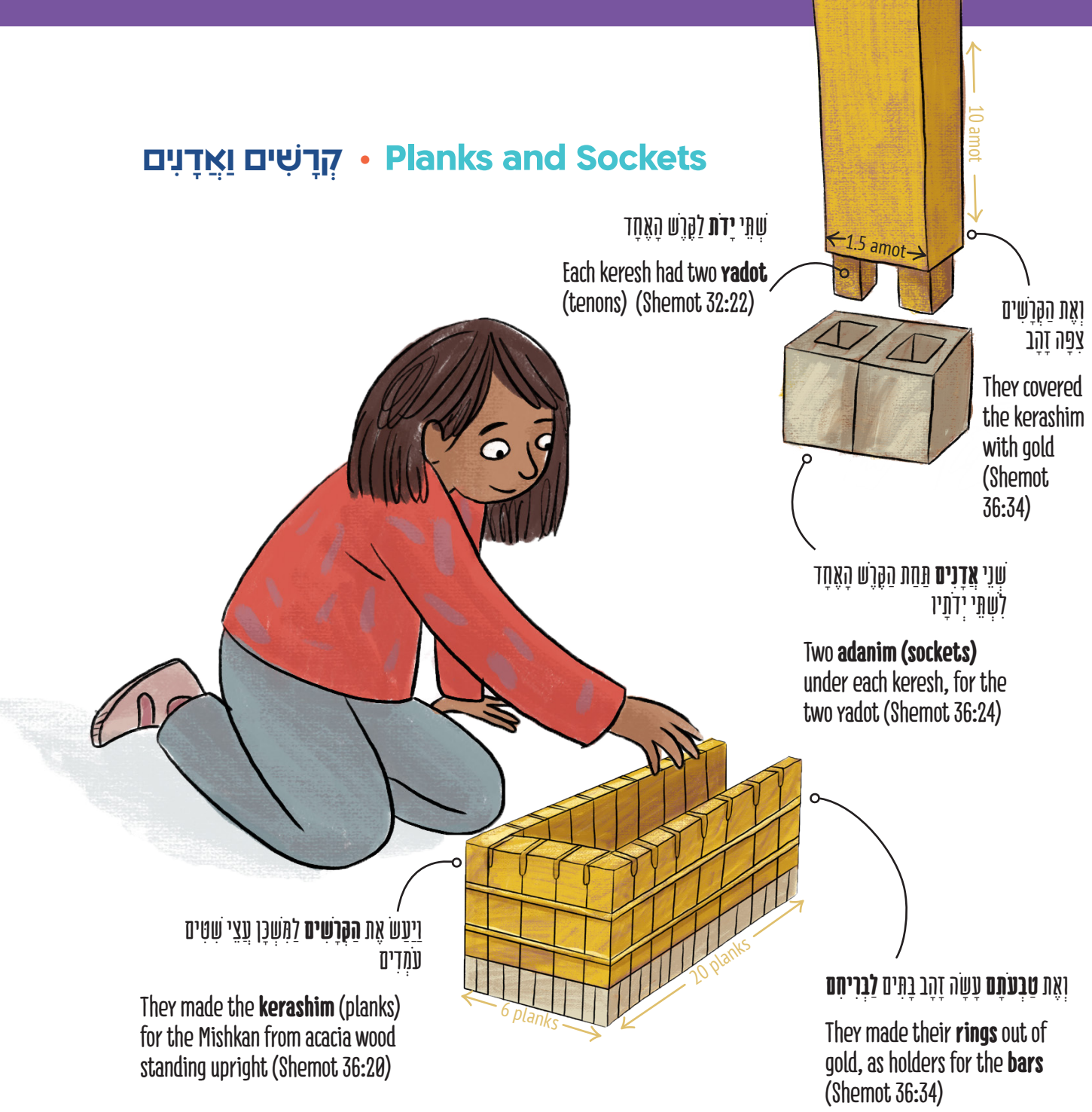
Yerushalmi Shabbat 2:3 (4c) gives some possibilities.

- R. Yehudah: leather that was dyed violet
- Other Rabbis: skin of an unknown animal that lived in the wilderness
- R. Hoshayah: unicorn skin(!)

R. Avraham son of the Rambam says it could be a kind of embroidered leather.

Content and editing by Shoshie Lockshin, Jason Rogoff, Jeremy Tabick, and Effy Unterman.
Design by Jen Klor. Illustration by Noa Kelner.

קְרָשִׁים וַאֲדָנִים • Planks and Sockets



Most of the supplies for building the Mishkan came from voluntary donations (Shemot 35:21-24). But the source of the silver for the adanim was different. This silver came from מַחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל (mahatzit ha-shekel), a contribution of a half-shekel of silver that everyone was required to make (Shemot 38:25-28).

- Why is it important that the Mishkan's supplies came from both optional and required donations?
- What's powerful about having one part of the Mishkan that everyone contributed to in exactly equal amounts?

שְׁאֵלוֹת הַשָּׁבוּעַ • Parashah Scavenger Hunt

The answers to the first seven questions can be found in the matching numbered aliyah in the Torah reading. The answers to questions 8 and 9 are harder and can come from anywhere in the parashah. The answer to question 10 is in this week's haftarah.

aliyot:
1) Shemot 35:1 to 35:20
2) 35:21 to 35:29
3) 35:30 to 36:7
4) 36:8 to 36:19
5) 36:20 to 37:16
6) 37:17 to 37:29
7) 38:1 to 38:20

Haftarah (Shabbat Shekalim): Melakhim Bet 11:17 to 12:17 for Sefardim and Melakhim Bet 12:1 to 12:17 for Ashkenazim

Good luck!

1. What specific activity is forbidden on Shabbat?



2. Who brought the precious stones for the אֵפוֹד (ephod) and the חֹשֶׁן (hoshen) that the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל (kohen gadol, high priest) wore?

3. What two words are repeated twice in a row?

4. What made the Mishkan into one unified structure?



5. Who made the אָרֹן (aron, ark)?

6. The description of the מְנוֹרָה (menorah) involves all the numbers from 1 to 7, except one number. Which is it?

7. What was the כִּיּוֹר (kiyor, washbasin) made out of?

8. Which two names for Hebrew letters are used to describe parts of the Mishkan?

9. What had a זֵר (zer, crown)?

10. **From the haftarah:** What did the כֹּהֲנִים (kohanim, priests) fail to do?

* Look for the answers on page 8!

PEDAGOGY OF PARTNERSHIP
How we learn is what we learn.

To subscribe to future issues or for free downloads, visit: hadar.org/devash

For support teaching this and other texts in your school, check out PoP! hadar.org/pop



Copyright (c) 2024 by Hadar | Devash: Vayakhel 2024 by Hadar is licensed under a Creative Commons. Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

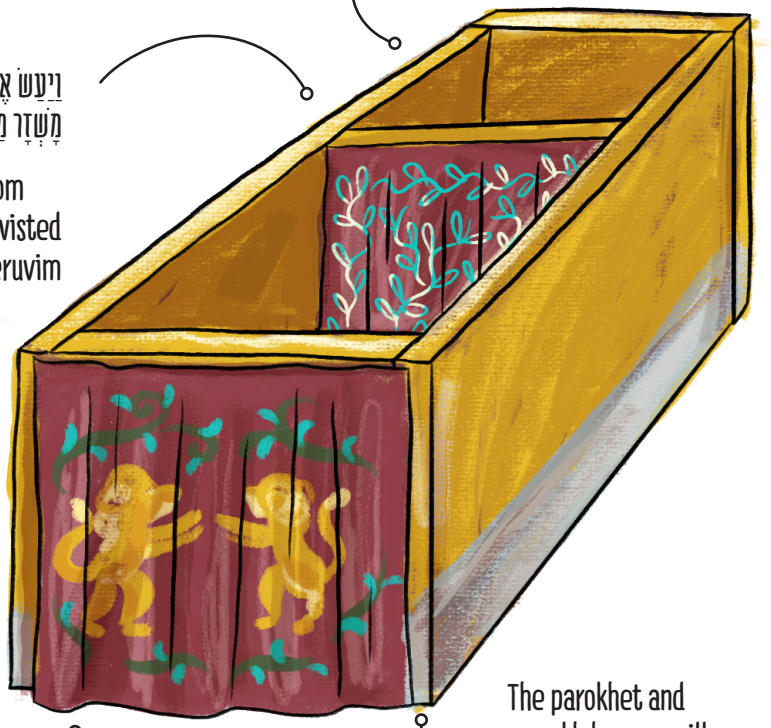
פָּרֹכֶת וּמָסָךְ • Parokhet and Masakh

וְהִבְדִּילָה הַפָּרֹכֶת לָכֶם בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין קֹדֶשׁ הַקָּדָשִׁים

The parokhet divides the Kodesh (Holy space of the Mishkan) from the Kodesh HaKodashim (Holy of Holies) (Shemot 26:33)

וַיַּעַשׂ אֶת **הַפָּרֹכֶת** תְּכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן וְתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי וְשֵׁשׁ מָשְׁזָר מַעֲשֵׂה חֹשֵׁב עָשָׂה אֹתָהּ כְּרֻבִים

They made **the parokhet** (curtain) from tekhelet, purple, and red wool, and twisted linen—working it into a design of keruvim (angels or creatures) (Shemot 36:35)



וַיַּעַשׂ **מָסָךְ** לְפֶתַח הָאֹהֶל תְּכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן וְתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי וְשֵׁשׁ מָשְׁזָר מַעֲשֵׂה רֹקֵם

They made the **masakh** (screen) for the entrance of the Tent, of tekhelet, purple, and red wool, and twisted linen, done in embroidery (Shemot 36:37)

The parokhet and masakh hung on pillars, using hooks. The hooks are called וָוִים (vavim) because they are in the shape of a letter ו (vav).

The parokhet had a special design that wasn't part of the masakh: **keruvim**. There were also keruvim in the design of the Mishkan's top covering (see p. 2).

A few weeks ago, in Devash for Terumah, we described the keruvim that were gold statues on the בַּפֹּרֶת (kaporet), which covered the אָרוֹן (aron, ark). According to Rashi, the keruvim on the parokhet and on the Mishkan's cover were creatures that were woven into cloth, like a tapestry.

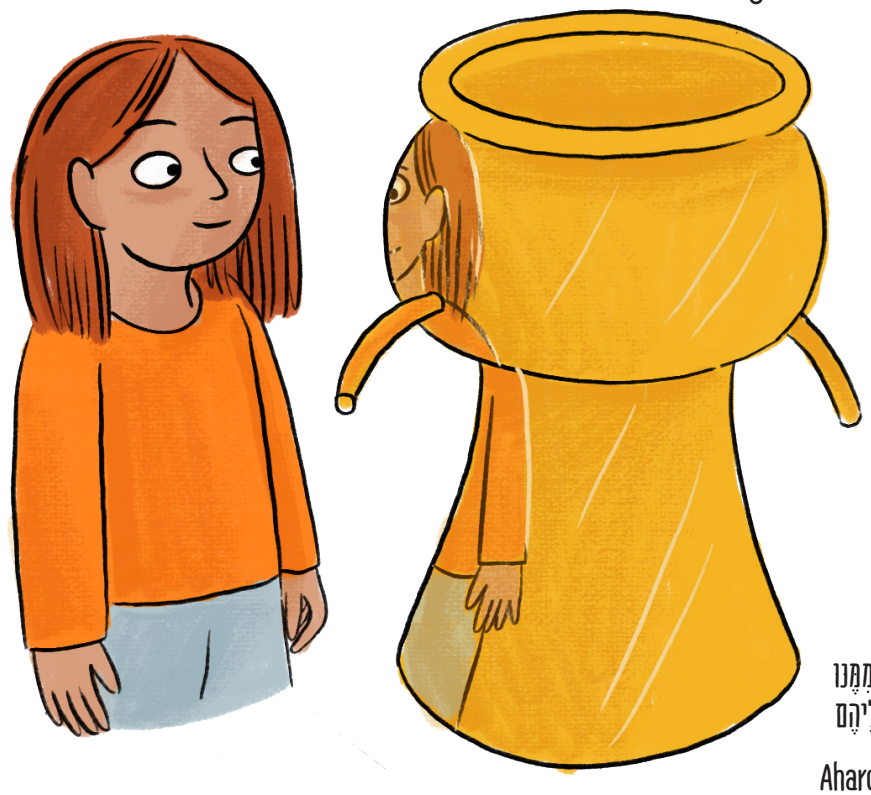
What exactly did the keruvim look like? We don't know! Rashbam thought they looked like birds (Shemot 25:18). Bekhor Shor writes that they looked like angels who look like cows (Bereishit 3:24). R. Abahu thought they looked like children (Sukkah 15b). Ibn Ezra says that the word "keruvim" could refer to any of these forms (Bereishit 3:24).

- Why might any of these forms fit nicely in the Mishkan? What might they represent?

כִּיּוֹר • Kiyor

וַיַּעַשׂ אֶת **הַכִּיּוֹר** נְחֹשֶׁת וְאֶת כַּנּוֹ נְחֹשֶׁת בְּמַרְאֹת הַצֹּבְאֹת

They made the **kiyor** (washbasin) and its pedestal from copper "mar'ot hatzov'ot" (Shemot 38:8)



וְרָחֲצוּ אַהֲרֹן וּבָנָיו מִמֶּנּוּ
אֶת יְדֵיהֶם וְאֶת רַגְלֵיהֶם

Aharon and his sons shall wash their hands and feet from it (Shemot 30:19)



It's not totally clear what the "mar'ot hatzov'ot" are, but one meaning of the word מַרְאָה (mar'ah) is "mirror." According to a midrash (Tanhuma Pekudei 9), the kiyor was made out of mirrors that women donated to the Mishkan.

The kohanim used the kiyor to wash, and this could be the source for a kind of handwashing that we do today:

Ramban (Spain, 800 years ago)

Because of this, our Rabbis decreed handwashing before tefillah (prayer).

רמב"ן שמות ל:יט

וּמִן הָעִנְיָן הַזֶּה תִּקְּנוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ נְטִילַת יָדַיִם לִתְפִלָּה.

- In what ways is going to pray similar to what Aharon and the kohanim did?
- Look it up! In the pesukim about the kiyor in Shemot 30, the Torah emphasizes twice that washing with water from the kiyor will prevent death. What's so important about washing hands before serving God that it's literally the difference between life and death?

Devash is a weekly parashah magazine that makes Torah learning sweet. By engaging directly with texts and taking kids seriously as Jews, Devash helps children (ages 7+) and grown-ups discover the weekly Torah portion.

כֵּלִים נוֹסָפִים • Miscellaneous Keilim

There was a lot more stuff that the kohanim needed for their work in the Mishkan! The Torah mentions that the שֻׁלְחָן (shulhan, table) and the מְנֹרָה (menorah) each had additional כֵּלִים (kelim, utensils) that went with them (Shemot 30:27). When discussing the מִזְבֵּחַ (mizbe'ah, altar), the Torah lists these small keilim as its accessories:

Shadal (Italy, 200 years ago) explains the purpose of each of these.



עֲשֵׂית סִירֹתָיו
לְדַשְּׁנוֹ וְיָעָיו וּמִזְרְקֹתָיו
וּמִזְלְגֹתָיו וּמַחְתֹתָיו לְכָל
כֵּלָיו תַּעֲשֶׂה נְחֹשֶׁת

Make the pots for removing its ashes, as well as its scrapers, basins, flesh hooks, and fire pans—make all its keilim copper. (Shemot 27:3)

SCRAPERS — to gather ashes

BASINS — to receive blood

FLESH HOOKS — to hang cut-up pieces of animals

FIRE PANS — to rake coals and take them away

There are so many keilim—containers, tools, and vessels—in our lives. The many keilim in the Mishkan are supposed to teach us that we can use the tools around us to create holiness in the world. Zekharyah tells us that, one day in a more perfect world, even normal keilim that had nothing to do with serving God will become holy:

Zekharyah 14:20-21

On that day, horse's bells will be holy to God, and the pots in the House of God will be like the basins before the mizbe'ah.

And every pot in Yerushalayim and Yehudah will be holy to God...

זכריה יד:כ-כא

בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה עַל מְצִלּוֹת הַסּוּס קֹדֶשׁ לַה'
וְהָיָה הַסִּירוֹת בְּבֵית ה' כַּמִּזְרָקִים לִפְנֵי
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

וְהָיָה כָּל סִיר בִּירוּשָׁלַם וּבִיהוּדָה קֹדֶשׁ לַה'...

- This is the very last line of Sefer Zekharyah! What would it take to make every pot holy to God? How can we fill the keilim in our homes with holiness?

Parashah Scavenger Hunt Answers:

1. Lighting a fire (35:3)
2. The נְּשִׂאִם (nesi'im, princes) of each tribe (35:27)
3. בַּבֹּקֶר בַּבֹּקֶר (ba-boker ba-boker, morning after morning) (36:3) and אִישׁ אִישׁ (ish ish, person after person) (36:4)
4. The gold קְרָסִים (kerasim, clasps) that attached the יְרִיעוֹת (yeriot, sheets of cloth) (36:13)
5. Betzalel (37:1)
6. 5 (The others can be found in 37:18-23)
7. Copper (38:8)
8. וָו (vav, hook; 36:36, 38:10) and כַּף (kaf, ladle; 37:16)
9. The אָרֹן (aron, ark) (37:2), the שֻׁלְחָן (shulhan, table) (37:11), and the מִזְבַּח הַקְּטֹרֶת (mizbah ha-ketoret, incense altar) (37:26)
10. Repair the Beit HaMikdash (Melakhim Bet 12:7)