

Repeated Arayot

Parashat Acharei Mot – Kedoshim 5780

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1. Acharei Mot, chapter 18

Each row is a separate paragraph in the Torah.

Verses	Themes
1-5	Do not perform the acts of the Egyptians and Canaanites, but do My commandments
6	Introduction to forbidden relationships: do not commit incest
7	Mother
8	Father's wife
9	Sister
10	Grand-daughter
11	Half-sister
12	Father's sister
13	Mother's sister
14	Father's brother's wife
15	Daughter-in-law
16	Brother's wife
17-30	Other <i>arayot</i> : mother and daughter/granddaughter, sisters, <i>niddah</i> , adultery; Other prohibitions: <i>Molech</i> , homosexual relations, bestiality Concluding verses: keep these commandments so that the land does not vomit you out

2. Kedoshim, chapter 20

The whole chapter is a single paragraph in the Torah.

Verses	Themes
(1), 2-6	Punishment for giving a child to <i>Molech</i> , seeking an <i>ov</i> or <i>yidoni</i>
7-8	Make yourselves <i>kadosh</i> and keep My laws
9	Capital punishment for cursing a parent
10	Capital punishment for adultery
11-16	Capital punishment for sexual relationships with mother, with daughter-in-law, with another man, with a mother and daughter; bestiality
17-21	Punishments (non-capital) for sexual relationships with sister, <i>niddah</i> , aunt, sister-in-law
22-24	Keep the commandments so that the land does not vomit you out
25-26	Distinguish between the pure and impure animals, and be holy, and I will separate you from the peoples to be for Me
27	Punishment for seeking an <i>ov</i> or <i>yidoni</i>

3. Rashi on Vayikra 20:2

ואל בני ישראל תאמר. עונשין על האזקות:

ואל בני ישראל תאמר AGAIN THOU SHALT SAY TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL the punishments for the transgression of the prohibitions mentioned in the previous chapters.

4. Vayikra 10:8-11 (Parashat Shmini, after the death of Nadav and Avihu)

(5) וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: (6) גֵּינ וְשָׁכַר אֶל-תְּשֻׁבָתָהּ | אֲתָהּ | וּבִנֶיךָ אֲתָדָּב בְּבִאֲכֶם אֶל-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְלֹא תָמָתוּ חֲקַת עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם: (7) וְלֹהֲבֹדִיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטְּהוֹר: (8) וְלִהְיוֹרֹת אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת כָּל-תְּחֻמֹּת אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֲלֵיהֶם בְּיַד-מֹשֶׁה:

(8) And the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: (9) Drink no wine or other intoxicant, you or your sons, when you enter the Tent of Meeting, that you may not die. This is a law for all time throughout the ages, (10) for you must distinguish between the sacred (*kodesh*) and the profane (*chol*), and between the unclean (“impure”, *tamei*) and the clean (“pure”, *tahor*); (11) and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which the LORD has imparted to them through Moses.

5. A book of two halves

Unclean (“impurity”, *tamei*) and clean (“purity”, *tahor*):

- Animals (chapter 11)
- A woman giving birth (chapter 12)
- “Leprosy” and its purification (chapters 13, 14)
- Laws of the *zav* and *zavah* and related matters (chapter 15)
- Purification of the *mikdash* from the impurities of *Bnei Yisrael* (chapter 16)
- [Prohibition of blood (chapter 17)]
- Impurity of the land arising from forbidden sexual unions and other practices (chapter 18)

Sacred (sanctity, holiness, *kodesh*) and profane (*chol*)

- Various laws to achieve *kedushah* (chapter 19)
- Avoiding forbidden sexual unions and other practices to achieve *kedushah* (chapter 20)
- Sanctity of *kohanim* (chapter 21)
- Protection of sanctity (*kedushah*) of *mikdash*-related items from *tum'ah* and other defilement (chapter 22)
- Sanctity of time (chapter 23)

6. Kiddushin 2b

ומאי לישנא דרבנן דאסר לה אכולי עלמא כהקדש

And what is the reason that betrothal is called *kiddushin*, literally, consecration, in the **language of the Sages**? The reason is **that** through betrothal the husband **renders her forbidden to everyone like consecrated** property. Therefore, this act is referred to as consecration.

7. Between *tum'ah/tahara* and *kedusha/chol*

The different orders: impact on “impurity” vs. the impact on “kedusha”

Some Further reading

Rav Amnon Bazak, *The Repeated List of Forbidden Sexual Relations*, <https://www.etzion.org.il/en/repeated-list-forbidden-sexual-relations>

Rabbanit Sharon Rimon, *Morality in Sexual Relations and the Land, Impurity and Sanctity*, <https://www.etzion.org.il/en/morality-sexual-relations-and-land-impurity-and-sanctity>

Rav Menachem Liebttag, *Parshat Kedoshim - The Repetition of the Laws of Arayot*, <https://tanach.org/vayikra/kdosh/kdosh3.htm>