



Table Talk Parshat Achrei Mot

ויקרא י"ח:ג'

Leviticus 18:3

כַּמַּעֲשֵׂה אֶרֶץ־מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר יֵשְׁבֹתֶם־בָּהּ לֹא תַעֲשֶׂוּ
וּכְמַעֲשֵׂה אֶרֶץ־כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְבִיא אֲתֶכֶם לָשֹׂמָה לֹא
תַעֲשֶׂוּ וּבַחֲקֻמֹּתֵיהֶם לֹא תִלְכוּ:

You shall not copy the practices of the land of Egypt where you dwelt, or of the land of Canaan to which I am taking you; nor shall you follow their laws.

אבן עזרא על ויקרא י"ח:ג':ב'

Ibn Ezra on Leviticus 18:3:2

ובחקתיהם לא תלכו. שלא ירגיל אדם ללכת בדרך הזה
עד שיהיה לו חק:

Do not follow their customs One must not develop a habit of behaving their way, until he ultimately becomes accustomed to it.

שפתי חכמים, ויקרא י"ח:ג':ג'

Sifte Chakhamim, Leviticus 18:3:3

טרטיות. בפ"ק דכתובות פירש"י טרטיות פלטי מלכי
ע"א ושרים של עובדי אלילים. [ג"א] ואצטדיאות שחוק
שמסיתים את השוורים ושאר חיות לנגחם ולהלחם זה
עם זה:

Theatres. In the first chapter of Ketubot (5a), Rashi explains that טרטיות are palaces of non-Jewish kings and non-Jewish ministers. (*Gur Aryeh*): אצטדיאות is a sport where they incite bulls and other beasts to gore and fight each other.

"A society needs a land, a home, a location in space, where a nation can shape its own destiny in accord with its deepest aspirations and ideals. Jews have been around for a long time, almost four thousand years since Abraham began his journey. During that period they have lived in every country on the face of the earth, under good conditions and bad, freedom and persecution. Yet in all that time there was only one place where they formed a majority and exercised sovereignty, the land of Israel, a tiny country of difficult terrain and all too little rainfall, surrounded by enemies and empires.

Only in Israel is the fulfillment of the commands a society-building exercise, shaping the contours of a culture as a whole. Only in Israel can we fulfil the commands in a land, a landscape and a language saturated with Jewish memories and hopes. Only in Israel does the calendar track the rhythms of the Jewish year. In Israel Judaism is part of the public square, not just the private, sequestered space of synagogue, school and home. Jews need a land because they are a nation charged with bringing the Divine presence down to earth in the shared spaces of our collective life, not least – as the last chapter of Acharei Mot makes clear..."

- The Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Let's Talk!

How does what we watch and do affect our character?

What things did the Jewish people see in Egypt that affected them?

How does living in Israel help us preserve our Jewish identity?

What things, images and shows do we watch that may not be good for our character development?

Why is it important to be cautious of what we watch?



check out our podcast! <https://www.hartorah.org/YHTPOV/>