

פרשת שמעני Table Talk



ויקרא י"א:ב'

(ב) דַּבְּרוּ אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר זֹאת
הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר תֹּאכְלוּ מִכָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר
עַל־הָאָרֶץ: (2) Speak to the Israelite people
thus: These are the creatures that
you may eat from among all the
land animals:

"R. Munk reminds us that the first command G-d gave the first human was a dietary law. "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." The dietary laws in Shemini parallel the prohibition given to Adam. As then, so now, a new era in the spiritual history of humankind, preceded by an act of creation (in this case the Mishkan), is marked by laws about what one may and may not eat. Why? ... it is one of the most primal activities, shared with many other forms of life... Without food, even the individual cannot survive...Judaism... sees the human situation in terms of integration and balance. We are body and soul... We are commanded to sanctify the activities of eating ... From this flow the dietary laws ...a key element of kedushah, the life of holiness."

-The Lord Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks

Let's Talk!

What Mitzvot can we do with food?

What meals do we have that are holy? What makes them holy?

Why do you think the Torah has rules about what we can and cannot eat?

How is our community special because we keep Kosher?

