

דברי מנחם

Diarei Menachem

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In this day and age of elections, of fake news, character assassination, incrimination, and discrimination, this week's Parsha, Metzora, could not have been more timely: For it appears that Tzara'at is the result of a degraded spiritual condition, perhaps not unlike that which we are experiencing in our times in our country.

Notably, the purification process described in the Parsha offers people an opportunity to reflect on social ills, in general, and on personal deficiencies, in particular. This contemplation consequently draws the offending individuals to make amends so that they can once again become part of the nation. But what of the nation as a whole?

We could posit that just as each citizen's vote impinges on society as a whole, so do our efforts contribute to the overall healing process of the nation. We might then wish to engage and internalize the poignant prayer that we utter three times a day: "Guard my tongue against evil and my lips from speaking guile. Let my soul be silent in the face of those who curse me, and let my soul be to all like dust."

For the dust is not "insulted" by those who tread on her. Yes, let me be humble enough to ignore, to forget and to forgive. And let me partake of the ultimate antidote to all Lashon Hara and social sickness that follows this plaint: "Open my heart to Your Torah, and let my soul pursue your commandments."

