

## Parsha Points to Ponder

by Rabbi Dov Lipman

### TAZRIA-M'TZORA

- ① Why is an article of clothing with a tzara'at-like mark closed away without question to see what happens to it (13:50) while a human being can be declared impure by the kohein as soon as he sees the mark on him (see 13:3)?
- ② Why does the Torah say that the person with tzara'at is BROUGHT TO THE KOHEIN (14:2) implying that he is forced to go to the kohein, when the person is clearly desiring to become pure and is seeking to begin the purification process?
- ③ Why does the Torah command that the person with tzara'at bring two birds to the Temple but one is set free and not offered as a sacrifice (14:4-7)?

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The suggested answers are elsewhere  
Ponder the questions first, then see further

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### Suggested answers

- ① The Ohr HaChayim explains that since clothing with tzara'at must be destroyed, God was sensitive to the potential monetary loss involved and commanded that all clothing be closed away to see if anything changes before declaring it impure. Since a human being who has tzara'at can become pure, there was no reason to delay the decision that he is in fact impure.
- ② The Kli Yakar teaches that the person should have voluntarily gone to the kohein to receive guidance and inspiration before committing the sins which led to his tzara'at affliction. The language that he is BROUGHT TO THE KOHEIN means that now he has no choice but to go to the kohein in order to begin the purification process.
- ③ The Da'at Zekainim MiBaalei HaTosfot answer that the bird flying away teaches him that if he repents completely then the tzara'at will not return.