

## Aflame: Lighting up a Soul

### Numbers, Chapter Nine

1. The L-rd spoke to Moses, saying:
2. Speak to Aaron and say to him: "When you light the lamps, toward the face of the menorah shall the seven lamps cast their light."
3. Aaron did so; towards the face of the menorah he lit its lamps, as the L-rd commanded Moses.
4. This is how the menorah was made: beaten from (a block) of gold, from its base to its flower it is beaten out (of a solid block); according to the vision that the L-rd had showed Moses, so he made the menorah.

#### **Rashi**—When you light (*lit. cause to rise*)

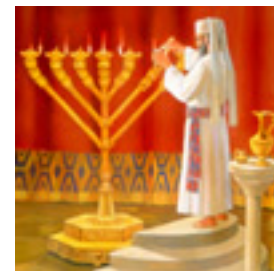
He is required to kindle the lamp until **the flame rises by itself, on its own accord**. Our Sages further expounded from here that there was a step in front of the menorah, on which the kohen stood to prepare the lamps.

#### **Rashi**—Shall the seven lamps cast their light

The six lamps that were on the six branches. The three eastern ones turned toward the middle by their wicks. Similarly, the three western ones—the heads of their wicks were towards the middle.

#### **Rashi**—Beaten

There was a lump of gold which he beat with a hammer and cut with shears to extend its limbs properly; but it was not made limb by limb and then connected.



#### פרק ט

- א. וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
- ב. דַּבֵּר אֶל אַהֲרֹן וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו בְּהַעֲלֹתְךָ אֶת הַנֵּרוֹת אֶל מוֹל פְּנֵי הַמְּנוֹרָה יֵאִירוּ שְׂבָעַת הַנֵּרוֹת:
- ג. וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן אַהֲרֹן אֶל מוֹל פְּנֵי הַמְּנוֹרָה הֶעֱלָה נֵרֹתֶיהָ כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ה' אֶת מֹשֶׁה:
- ד. וְזֶה מַעֲשֵׂה הַמְּנוֹרָה מִקִּשְׁה זָהָב עַד יִרְכָּה עַד פְּרֻחָהּ מִקִּשְׁה הוּא כְּמִרְאָה אֲשֶׁר הִרְאָה ה' אֶת מֹשֶׁה כֵּן עָשָׂה אֶת הַמְּנוֹרָה:

## SUMMARY

- Spiritual significance of menorah is: be a lamplighter
- "Until the flame rises on its own accord" = help another become a self-sufficient luminary.
- Uplifting another, uplifts you = the kohen stood on raised steps
- Menorah had many components = the diversity of Jewish people
- Menorah was made from a single piece of gold = all souls are essentially one
- All the wicks faced the center = we may all be unique, but we have one central goal