

"Aharon and his sons shall arrange for the lamps to burn from evening until morning." (27:21) - "And bring near your brother... to be Kohanim to Me." (28:1)

Aharon was enjoined regarding the preparation and kindling of the *Menorah* even prior to his being selected as the *Kohain Gadol*. This would seem to indicate that Aharon's task of lighting the *Menorah* was exclusive of his position as *Kohain Gadol*. It was due to Aharon's exemplary character traits that he merited the position of lighting the *Menorah*, as well as being selected as *Kohein Gadol*. The *Menorah*, being the symbol of the light of *Torah* which spreads throughout the world, can serve as a vehicle from which to derive certain basic formulas for the proper approach to teaching *Torah*.

The *Talmud* states that the *mitzvah* of lighting the *Menorah* is such that one must kindle the light until the flame goes up by itself. (*Shabbos 21b*)

We may infer from this *halacha* that when one imparts *Torah* knowledge to his child or his student, he must adequately prepare him so that the student will eventually have the ability to study *Torah* on his own. The mentor should be vigilant that the student does not just parrot the lesson, but rather that he should have an in-depth understanding of what has been taught.

The *Torah* states that the oil used for the *Menorah* must be "pure olive oil." We note from this *halacha* that an educator should properly prepare his lesson so that when it is presented in the classroom there will not be any contradictions raised by students. The lesson should be clear and lucid, properly outlined and defined, so that there will remain no doubts in the minds of the students. Another lesson can be gleaned from the fact that the same amount of oil was used for the lamps, regardless of the time of year. Whether the days were long or short, the *Torah* commands that the oil used should be uniform. This indicates that the efforts that are utilized and applied in the teaching of a superior and gifted child should likewise be applied to the weaker child. Often-times, teachers will give up on the poor student because he lacks the ability to succeed, or, on the other hand, they will not concern themselves properly with the superior student because they think that there is little need for much attention. These attitudes and sentiments are both wrong, since one must realize that all students should be handled equally, with the same devotion and supervision.

These are but a few of the valuable lessons learned from the guidelines for lighting the *Menorah*. It is through their application that we can be sure to provide for our children a meaningful and lasting education.