

## Source Sheet



## Parshat Nasso



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רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר הַקַפָּר בְּרַבִּי אוֹמֵר, מָה תַּלְמוּד לוֹמַר: ״וְכָפֶּר עָלָיו מֵאֲשֶׁר חָטָא עַל הַנָּפָשׁ״, וְכִי בְּאֵיזֶה נֶפֶשׁ חָטָא זֶה? אֶלֵא שֶצִיעֶר עַצָמוֹ מָן הַיֵּין... רַבִּי אֶלְעַזַר אוֹמֵר: נָקָרֵא קִדוֹשׁ, שֵׁנָאֱמֵר: ״קְדוֹשׁ יָהְיֵה גַדַּל פָּרַע שְׁעַר רֹאשׁו״.

Rabbi Elazar Hakappar says, what is taught [by the Torah] saying, "And it atones for him for the sin that he sinned upon his soul," and what sin did he commit? Rather [it teaches that he sinned in] that he caused him self to suffer [through abistence] from wine... Rabbi Elazare says, he is called holy, as it says, "He shall be sacred, he shall let the locks of his hair grow long."

(Tannit 11a)

וטעם החטאת שיקריב הנזיר ביום מלאת ימי נזרו לא נתפרש. ועל דרך הפשט כי האיש הזה חוטא נפשו במלאת הנזירות כי הוא עתה נזור מקדושתו ועבודת השם וראוי היה לו שיזיר לעולם ויעמוד כל ימיו נזיר וקדוש לאלהיו

The reason why a Nazirite must bring a sin-offering when the days of his Naziritehood are fulfilled has not been explained. In accordance with the plain meaning of Scripture, [it is because] this man sins against his soul on the day of completion of his Naziritehood; for until now he was separated in sanctity and the service of G-d, and he should therefore have remained separated forever, continuing all his life consecrated and sanctified to his G-d...

(Nachmanides, Numbers 6:11)

דְתַנְיָא, אָמַר (רַבִּי) שִׁמְעוֹן הַצַּדִּיק: מִיֶּמֵי לֹא אָכַלְתִּי אֲשֵׁם נָזִיר טָמֵא אֶלָּא אֶחָד. פַּעַם אַחַת בָּא אָדָם אֶחָד נָזִיר מִן הַדָּרוֹם, וּרְאִיתִיו שֶׁהוּא יְפֵה עֵינַיִם וְטוֹב רוֹאִי וּקְווּצּוֹתִיו סְדוּרוֹת לוֹ תַּלְתַּלִּים. אָמַרְתִּי לוֹ: בְּנִי, מָה רָאִיתְ לְהַשְּׁחִית אֶעְרְךּ זֶה הַנָּאֶה? אָמַר לִי: רוֹעֶה הָיִיתִי לְאַבָּא בְּעִירִי, הָלַכְתִּי לְמַלֹּאוֹת מֵיִם מִן הַמַּעְיָין וְנִסְתַּכַּלְתִּי בַּבָּבוּאָה שֶׁלְרְךּ זֶה הַנָּאֶה? אָמַר לִי: רוֹעֶה הָיִיתִי לְאַבָּא בְּעִירִי, הָלַכְתִּי לְמַלֹּאוֹת מֵיִם מִן הַמַּעְיָן וְנִסְתַּכַּלְתִּי בַּבָּבוּאָה שָׁלְּךְ, בְּמִי יִצְרִי וּבְקֵשׁ לְטוֹרְדֵנִי מִן הָעוֹלָם. אָמַרְתִּי לוֹ: רְשָׁע! לָמָה אַתָּה מִתְגָּאָה בְּעוֹלְם שָׁאֵינוֹ שֶׁלְּךְ, בְּמִי שָׁהִוּז עָל רֹאשׁוֹ, אָמַרְתִּי לוֹ: בְּנִי, שָׁהוּא עָתִיד לְהְיוֹת רָמָּה וְתוֹלֵעָה? הָעְרַהְ הַכָּתוּב אוֹמֵר "אִישׁ כִּי יַפְלָּא לְנָדֹר נֵדֶר לְהַזִּיר לַה.".

As it is taught, Rabbi Shimon HaTzaddik said: In all my days, I never ate the guilt-offering of a ritually impure nazirite except once. One time, a particular man who was a nazirite came from the South and I saw that he had beautiful eyes and was good looking, and the fringes of his hair were arranged in curls. I said to him: My son, what did you see to destroy this beautiful hair of yours? He said to me: "I was a shepherd for my father in my city, and I went to draw water from the spring, and I looked at my reflection and my inclination quickly overcame me and sought to expel me from the world. I said: Wicked one! Why do you pride yourself in a world that is not yours; of someone who will eventually be for worms and maggots? [I swear] by the [Temple] service that I shall shave you for [the sake of] Heaven." I immediately arose and kissed him on his head. I said to him: "My son, may there be more who take vows of naziriteship like you among the Jewish people. About you the verse states: "When a man [or a woman] shall clearly utter a vow, the vow of a nazirite, to consecrate himself to the Lord" (Numbers 6:2).

(Nedarim 9b)