

[Kohelet Discussion](#)

Naso Parshah

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When I discussed this parshah with Bronia and Julie, they asked “how these sections are connected”. I did not have the answer. Maybe this is not a valid question. Or maybe you can provide good answers in your comments.

The parshah starts with the blessings to children of Israel. Blessings for wealth, security, and peace.

In this parshah G-d instructed Moses to direct 3 families, the Gershon, Merari, and Kehathite, to transport and do other work with the Tabernacle.

At some point G-d graced the Jews with His presence in front of the Tabernacle.

We learn in this parshah the laws about nazir, and sotah.

Nazir means “separated” in Hebrew. The law says: If any man or a woman announced the intention to become a nazir, to set themselves apart, they shall not cut the hair, should abstain from wine, and get more restrictions.

Sotah is a woman suspected in adultery. The Sages made a connection between nazir and sotah. The Sages suggest that a man who sees a sotah, should abstain from wine. The underlying thought might be that a woman often become sotah because of a drunken man.

There is no symmetry in the sotah law. A man can be easily cleared of the similar guilt, but sotah must go through bitter herbs and other trials to be cleared or she will be pronounced guilty.

Reading comments on the parshah I found a lot of things on the nazir law.

It appears that Torah considers nazir as a temporary state, not a way of life, with some exceptions, like Samson and Samuel.

Maimonides even calls a nazirite a sinner, explaining that a person should always be moderate in his actions, should not be going to any extreme and self-denial.

Christianity considers self-denial a holy action. To the contrary, Judaism teaches to enjoy life and achieve holiness through performing mitzvot, which often means engaging in the community.

This is not in tune with nazir, the “separated”.

This is a big parshah, not so much by volume, but filled with big ideas.

Please add your comments, your vision.

What is your understanding of nazir?

How engaging in the community or separating from one can contribute to what we call “happiness” or a good way of life?