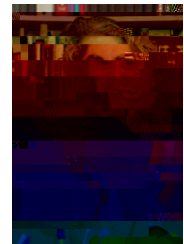




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Shabbat Emor
May 18, 2019 | 13 Iyyar 5779



By: Rabbi Gail Labovitz
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Does Law Equal Justice?

Torah Reading: Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23
Haftarah Reading: Ezekiel 44:15 - 31

Our parashah this week ends in an odd way, a way that it is odd both for the book of Leviticus, and for Torah more generally. Leviticus is largely a book of laws – laws related to the Tabernacle and the priesthood (hence the English name of the book that invokes the tribe of Levi), laws of incest and sexual prohibitions, laws of ritual impurity, and so on. It contains very few narratives, yet it presents one here. Moreover, this may be the only occasion in which the Torah presents a male character who has no name, but whose mother's name **אִלְטָוָה** (Altova) are far more used to unnamed female characters identified by relationship to a named father and/or husband):

And the son of an Israelite woman, he being the son of an Egyptian man, went out among the Israelites, and the son of Israelite woman and an Israelite man brawled in the camp s **מִן** 'Mid fMV'

saying, "Take out him who vilified beyond the camp, and all who heard shall lay their hands on his head, and all the community shall stone him..." ... And Moses spoke to the Israelites, and they took out him who had vilified beyond the camp and pelted him with stones. (Lev. 24:10-14, 23; translation by O-14,`

community were unable to participate due to ritual impurity from contact with a corpse (Num. 9) and when the daughters of Tzelofhad came desiring to inherit a place in the Land of Israel on behalf of their deceased



consideration by the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly on whether a person who is unable to fast for medical reasons may nonetheless serve as a leader of communal prayer on Yom Ke Ke

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