

Tzav

In the town of Tarnograd it was customary for a newly-wed bride to come to the Synagogue on the first Sabbath wearing a white straw hat. The weather did not matter. In rain or snow she would also wear this hat. It was communal property. It was presented by a wealthy Jew who had bought this hat in Warsaw for his daughter when she was married. The girls of the town admired it, and often borrowed it when they married. So it became the town's hat. It no longer was white; its shape was gone. But no bride would forego the privilege of donning it. Surely it did not fit all. On some heads it would form a peak, on others it would flap over their ears. And the bride whom this hat would fit as if custom-made would be delighted. Because it was an omen that the marriage would be happy, successful and long-lasting.

It is interesting that the Sages tell us that the royal crown must fit the head of the King. If a hat does not sit right on a man or woman it is comical. If the crown does not fit the appointed leader it is tragic.

Likewise for the Kohain, the Torah instructs in today's Sidrah, "*Vilovash Hakohen Mido Vad.*" Rashi quotes (Yoma 23) that it refers to the size. The vestments of the Kohain must be "*K'midoso.*" It must fit—not too long or short. Every office must fit the person.

But should not this injunction be in the Sidrah "*Tetzaveh*" where the vestments of the Kohen are prescribed? Why not in the portion describing the "*Miluim*," the installation ceremonies? Is it not peculiar that this injunction is found in the portion regarding "*Terumas Hadeshen*"—removing the ashes from the Altar?

The teaching is that the Kohain should maintain his dignity and Divine majesty not only when in the public eye, not only when performing the dignified services, when offering the Benedictions and at auspicious occasions. But even when removing the ashes he is to demonstrate his fitness.

The true test of a leader is not only when he presides at functions, not only to dispense and receive honors and accolades. The true leader can perform even seemingly menial tasks for the welfare of his people with dedication and dignity. Then he demonstrates that his robe of leadership is "*Kimidoso.*"