

## Parshat Acharei Mot Leviticus 16:1 – 18:30

Acharei Mot, means "After the Death" of Nadav and Avihu, the sons of Aaron. Moses tells Aaron that even he (the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest, who is to follow him) may not enter the place of the Holy Ark (Holy of Holies).

Only once a year, on Yom Kippur, was the Kohen Gadol (High Priest), and he alone, permitted to enter the place of the Holy Ark.

The portion describes the responsibility of a leader. He himself has to exhibit all the virtues and the high moral standards, which he advocates. If he falls short of these standards, he has little right to demand it from others. This is why in Jewish tradition a person with flaws in his character and with a spotty record could not aspire to become a communal leader.

When people with less than ideal character rise to leadership, it is a contradiction to the very idea of leadership.

Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat Candle lighting is 7:37 pm

