

Torah Portion Preview for 100422 Yom Kippur Afternoon, K'doshim

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From one year to the next throughout our lives, Yom Kippur attracts by the holiness it brings to us. The reading of the Holiness Code on Yom Kippur afternoon reminds us of the ways our ancestors endeavored to help their entire community become holy. The wonder is that our holiness changes with wisdom. Even our reading of this passage gleans different meanings over time. In our youth we read literally or to affirm our preconceptions of how to be holy. When we see this interpretation leading to discomfort with others or failed attempts to convince them to be more like us, we begin to grow in sustainable ways.

In *The Torah, A Woman's Commentary*, Editor Tamara Cohn Eskenazi reveals that K'doshim shows how “connections—not only separations—define the holy community: the connection to parents whom one must honor, to the poor and the disadvantaged whom one must protect, to the neighbor and stranger whom one must love, and of course to God.” During our beautiful services we have the opportunity to find inspiration and new ideas in old texts. Bring the ideas to dinner table conversations, work practices, or community events to discover connections you never knew you had.