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A SHORT VORT

BY RABBI CHANOCH YERES
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

"That they may take unto you, pure olive oil" (27:20) - יקחו אליך שמן זית זך (כז:כ)

What is the meaning of taking "pure" olive oil?

Rashi explains that "pure" refers to the process of how the oil is made. The olives need to be pounded with a hand operated mortar and not grinded by a millstone. This hand made process guaranteed that there were no sediments in the oil. Any further oil extracted would not be used for the Menorah but rather fit for meal offerings.

Rabbi Tzadok HaCohen from Lublin (1823-1900) in his Sefer " Kometz Hamincha or sometimes mistakenly referred to as Kemach Hamincha, describes from this explanation the two basic requirements for the oil to be utilized by the Menorah. In addition to the quality of the oil being superior, the oil had to be pure and derived by means of diligent toil and personal exertion. This technique of how to extract the oil to provide the Menorah with perfect burning flames offers a hint for our own behavior. The light of the Menorah knowledge and insight. For us to reach our potential, we must pursue the purest of sources, the most devout and sanctified instructors. In addition, we need to invest our own personal striving to reach the level of purity. Shabbat Shalom

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

 Last Opportunity to Say Kiddush Levana until: 15 Adar/ Tues. night March 3.

 The Fast of Esther begins 4:53am and concludes at 5:55pm. (Jerusalem times).

 Please see the Halachot of Purim on pages 72-81 for all the detailed laws and customs.