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## A SHORT VORT

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

"And cedar wood and scarlet and hyssop" (14:4) - (יֵדִד) ועץ ארז ושני תולעת ואזב  
Why specifically these ingredients?


Rashi points out that the plague of tzara'at results from haughtiness. Therefore, the appropriate remedy that he should be healed with is that he should lower himself from his pride just like a worm (To-la'at) and like hyssop. These species represent lowliness and humility.


Rabbi Avraham Bornsztain (Admor of Sochatchov 1838-1910) asks about this idea of Rashi. The afflicted individual has already repented. That is why he merited to be brought before the Kohen for the purifying ceremony. Why is there a need to further remind him of the need for humility by using modest and menial ingredients in the final procedure, it seems excessive?

One answer that he presents is that, true, the person afflicted with tzara'at must have repented and discarded his haughtiness, but that was due to his daily torment with this plague. There is a need to ensure that even after his body will recover, that he remains true to such a change in his behavior and nature. That is why, specifically, on "the day of his purification", he lowers himself further to bring upon himself a bona fide change both in body and soul. - Shabbat Shalom

## HELPFUL REMINDERS

 Rosh Chodesh Iyar is on Friday April 17th and Shabbat April 18th

 Yom Hazikaron is observed on Monday night April 20th and Tuesday April 21st

 Yom Haatzmaut is celebrated on Tuesday night April 21st and Wednesday April 22nd

 Earliest Kiddush Levana, 3 Days After Molad: 4 Iyar/ Mon. night April 20

7 Days After Molad: 9 Iyar/ Sat. night April 25

Last Opportunity to Say Kiddush Levana until: 14 Iyar/ Thurs. night April 30