
*Clothes maketh
the man...*

Rabbi Alon Meltzer

A New Page of Talmud

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Tetzaveh 5782



Make sacral vestments for your brother Aaron, for dignity and adornment. **Shemot 28:1**¹ the Priest should inspire awe among the Israelites who are all considered his disciples seeing he had the names of all the tribes engraved on these garments right opposite his heart when he wore them in his official capacity.— **Seforno on Shemot 28:1**² [One] realizes that without his clothes a man would be nothing at all; that the clothes do not merely make the man, the clothes are the man; that without them he is a cipher, a vacancy, a nobody, a nothing...

There is no power without clothes. **Mark Twain, 8th Czar's Soliloquy**³ Behold, the garments that He commanded to make were ostensibly outer garments, such that their

makeup is discussed - how the craftsmen are to make them with their work. But they really indicate inner clothes that the priests of God should make - to clothe their souls with thoughts and traits and proper tendencies, which are the clothes of the soul; and the craftsmen did not make those garments. But God commanded Moses that he should make these sacred garments - meaning to teach them how to refine their souls and traits, in such a way they will wear majesty and splendour upon their internal souls. **Malbim on Shemot 28:2**⁴ The verse states: "When he showed the riches of his glorious [kevod] kingdom and the honor of his majestic [tiferet] greatness" (Esther 1:4). Rabbi Yosei bar Hanina said: This teaches that Ahasuerus wore the priestly vestments.

Make sacral vestments
for Aaron...

וְעָשִׂיתָ בְּגָדֵי-קֹדֶשׁ לְאַהֲרֹן
Shemot 28:2

Proof for this assertion may be adduced from the fact that the same terms are written with regard to the priestly vestments, as it is written here: "The riches of his glorious [kevod] kingdom and the honour of his majestic [tiferet] greatness." And it is written there, with regard to the priestly garments: "For glory [kavod] and for majesty [tiferet]" (Exodus 28:2). **Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Megillah 12a**⁵ So off went the Emperor in procession under his splendid canopy. Everyone in the streets and the windows

said, "Oh, how fine are the Emperor's new clothes! Don't they fit him to perfection? And see his long train!" Nobody would confess that he couldn't see anything, for that would

prove him either unfit for his position, or a fool. No costume the Emperor had worn before was ever such a complete success. "But he hasn't got anything on," a little child said. "Did you ever hear such innocent prattle?" said its father. And one person whispered to another what the child had said, "He hasn't anything on. A child says he hasn't anything on." "But he hasn't got anything on!" the whole town cried out at last. The Emperor shivered, for he suspected they were right. But he thought, "This procession has got to go on." So he walked more proudly than ever, as his noblemen held high the train that wasn't there at all. — **Hans Christian Anderson, The Emperors New Clothes**⁶ **A new page of Talmud - Rabbi Alon Meltzer**