



## **Parashat Kedoshim**

### **3 Iyar 5784 – May 11, 2024**

As I write for this week's parashah I am filled with thoughts of Yom Hashoah observed this past week. Kedoshim is known as holiness. ... "Be holy for it is I (G-d) who makes you holy." We are created in the image of G-d and are therefore imbued with an opportunity to be holy. All those who perished in the Holocaust had some holiness, some with more, some with less.

In the tractate Megillah, of the Gemara, there are a number of instances where illustrious Rabbis were asked by students, "how was it that they lived long?" One such case; "The students of Rabbi Zera, or according to others, the students of Rabbi Adda the son of Ahabah asked: "How is it that you merited to live long? He answered: "I was never angry in my house; I never walked in front of my superior; I never thought of Divine subjects in unclean alleys; I never walked four cubits without studying Torah nor without Tefillin; I never slept in a house of learning, neither a sound sleep or a nap; I never rejoiced when my neighbor was in misfortune and I never called others by nicknames." A nickname, in this case, means a name of reproach.

What the text is teaching us is not specific to longevity but rather to "completeness" of life. "Completeness" of life means controlling one's anger or passion; respect for others, walking the path of Torah, respecting a house of learning and a Shul, and understanding that each connection with another person must contain some sense of G-dliness.

Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l (1933-2015) was born in Paris, France and escaped the Nazi occupation with his family, coming to the USA in 1941. He answers the question; How strong are you? "Your faith should be strong enough so that if you are the last remaining Jew in the world, you can walk out of Auschwitz and still remain committed." "Completeness" in life is when added to faith is "Kedoshim."

Good Shabbos!

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