

February 23, 2013 – Tetzaveh (Exodus 27:20-30:10)

Tetzaveh begins with the instructions for the lights to burn all night in the Tabernacle, then switches over to a description of the vestments for the High Priest, then outlines the ordination of Aaron and his sons, and finishes with the instructions for building the altar. We discussed the fact that this is the only portion in the last four books of the Torah in which Moses' name is not mentioned and explored why that might be the case.

We ended up discussing why there was creation at all, based on the juxtaposition of two Hebrew words, one meaning "witness," and the other "knowing" in the sense of experiencing (they both share the same Hebrew letters, even though in a different order). This led to a discussion of the mystical interpretation of creation propounded by Isaac Luria, known as the Exilic Theory of Creation.