



Parashat Tzav

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1 Conversation

The security guy in the apartment building lobby in Bat Yam gave no outward indication of being religious, no kipa or religious clothes. But when asked about the weekly portion, Tzav, he very calmly gave a beautifully human comment on what seems to be a very procedural portion. He said there were various kinds of sacrifices offered at the Temple and in various ways, and that some of them led to some of the prayers we still say. He said two kinds of offerings were olah, the thanks offering that was burned and the smoke rose in thanks to the heavens, and the sin offering for someone who had committed a sin. The security fellow said that these two types of offerings were made at places right next to each other at the Temple, very close, so that somebody watching couldn't readily distinguish between someone making a thanks-offering or a sin-offering. In this way a person's privacy and the personal nature of the offering were protected, someone didn't have to undergo the looks of others as to why they were bringing the type of offering they did. The security fellow emphasized this human aspect of bringing the offerings.