

Torah Study Source Sheet:
Holiness in Disruption: Where it Begins (Tazria–Metzora)
Prepared by Rabbi Robyn Fisher 4.18.26

TEXT 1: Leviticus 13:47–59 (Plaut, p. 837)

TEXT 2: Rashi on Leviticus 13

“The afflictions first appear on the house. If ignored, they appear on garments. If still ignored, they appear on the body.”

TEXT 3: Leviticus 15:1–13 (Plaut, p. 852)

TEXT 4: Maimonides, *Hilchot Tzara’at* 16:10

“These afflictions are not natural occurrences, but signs and wonders in Israel... meant to warn them to turn away from harmful behavior.”

TEXT 5: "Illness as a Metaphor", by Susan Sontag in "Seeing the Whole Person"
Illness is the night side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the Kingdom of the well and the Kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use the good passport, sooner or later, each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.

TEXT 6: Leviticus 13:45–46 (p. 834)

TEXT 7: Alan Morinis (Everyday Holiness)

“The soul trait of compassion may be more accurately defined as the inner experience of touching another being so closely that you no longer perceive the other one as separate from you...When we look at another with eyes of judgment, we see only their accumulated deeds and habits...But when we draw closer... we begin to perceive the untainted soul—the image of the Divine reflected in them, as in ourselves.”

TEXT 8: Sow in Tears, Reap in Joy based on Psalm 126:5

Chorus: Those who sow, who sow in tears will reap in joy, will reap in joy.
Those who sow, who sow in tears will reap, will reap in joy

It's the song of the dreamer, from the dark place it grows
Like a flower in the desert, the oasis of our souls.
Come back, come back where we belong.
You who hear our longing sighs,
Our mouths, our lips are filled with song
You can see our tear-filled eyes!