

Korach 5786

Bavli Pesachim 54a

Ten items were created on Friday before dusk: The well, the manna, the rainbow... and some say Aharon's staff, with its almonds and flowers.

Numbers Rabbah 18:23

Some say that Aharon's staff was the same as the one Yehudah held, as it is written, 'And your staff in your hand.' And some say it was the staff that Moshe held, and it is flowered on its own, per, 'Behold, Aharon's staff flowered.' And some say Moshe took a single beam and cut it in twelve beams, telling each, 'All of you take your staffs from a single beam'... lest they say that Aharon's staff had been moist and therefore had flowered. HaShem decreed upon the staff and the Explicit Name was found upon it, as it appears on the tzitz... and it flowered during the night and produced a fruit.

'And it bore almonds' – It bore for all who watched out for the tribe of Levi. Why almonds rather than pomegranates or nuts? Because the Jews are compared to them.

Rashi on Numbers 17:23

Why almonds? This fruit is faster to flower than any other fruit. So, too, punishment will come swiftly for one who challenges the kehunah.

Chizkuni on Numbers 17:23

'Perach [Flower]' – A sign for the pirchei kehunah who would emerge from him. 'Tzitz' – A sign that the kohanim, who will bear the crown of the sacred tzitz, would emerge from him. 'Shekeidim' – A sign that kohanim, who will be shokdim in their work – 'Kohanim are energetic' – would emerge from him.

Proverbs 8:34

Fortunate is the man who listens to Me, to be shokeid at My doors daily, to guard the posts of My entrance.

Bavli Ketuvot 2a

The sages were shokeid for the benefit of Jewish women, so that the groom would prepare the meal for three days – Sunday, Monday and Tuesday – and then marry her on Wednesday.

Exodus 25:33

Three cups, meshukadim, on a single branch, with a knob and a flower.

Jeremiah 1:11-12

And Gd spoke to me and said, 'What do you see, Yirmiyahu?' And I said, 'I see an almond staff.' And Gd said to me, 'You have seen well; I am shokeid on My word, to fulfill it.'

Bavli Sotah 11b

The verse relates the midwives' reward: **“And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that He made them houses”** (Exodus 1:21). **Rav and Shmuel** disagree as to the precise interpretation of these houses: **One says** that God made **the houses of the priesthood and the Levites** descend from the midwives, **and one says** that God made the **houses of royalty** descend from them. **The one who says** that it is referring to the **houses of the priesthood and the Levites** is referring to **Aaron and Moses**, who were sons of Jochebed.