

h o l y

ozreinu may 2006

God spoke to Moses saying,
Speak to the whole community and say to them:
You shall be holy,
for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

Leviticus 19:1-2

This is the way of Torah: Eat bread with salt, drink water in small measure, sleep on the ground, and live a life of hardship.

Pirkei Avot 6:4

You must sanctify your mouth, your nose, your eyes and your ears. You must guard your mouth against words of falsehood and anything else which falls short of holiness... Your ears will be holy when you believe in the wise words of sages. And you must close your eyes and shut out anything which is not good for you to see. The holiness you attain will bring you perfect understanding, and you will have wisdom, which is God's blessing ...Another way of sanctifying your nostrils, is if you are humble and patient and do not burst out in anger if someone insults you (The Hebrew expression for anger is a `burning in the nostrils')...

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, *Likutei Mohoran*

What is spoken of is the holiness of the community, a holiness that springs precisely from being within a community, a congregation, mingling with other human beings.

Chatam Sofer (18th century, German)

Leviticus 19

14. Do not curse a deaf person. Do not place a stumbling block before a blind person, and you shall fear your God. I am the Lord.

15. Commit no injustice in judgment; you shall not favor a poor person or defer to a great person; you shall judge your fellow with righteousness.

16. Do not go around as a gossipmonger amidst your people. Do not stand by [the shedding of] your fellow's blood. I am the Lord.

17. Do not hate your brother in your heart. Surely rebuke your fellow; do not bear a sin on his account.

18. Neither take revenge from nor bear a grudge

against the members of your people; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.