

Terumah

Vetzipita otoh zahav tahor mibayit umibachutz tetzapenu- and you shall overlay it with pure gold- inside and outside shall it be overlaid.

The verse from this week's Sedra is speaking about the *Aron*- the Holy Ark which was placed in the Holy of Holies and contained within it the two tablets. The Torah is saying that it should be constructed of acacia wood but superimposed with pure gold. The details of this I will not go into here. However I will say that there were actually three boxes. The outer was made of gold the middle of acacia wood and the inner box was made of pure gold-

Consider the statement from Rabbah in the Talmud in Yoma (74b); He says, basing himself on these words that the Ark should be overlaid inside and out with pure gold- we learn that a learned person has to be ***Tocho kebaro***- His inner life has to be a reflection of his outer life.

The pure gold represents Torah-and just as the *Aron* had to be covered inside and out with the gold, so too what is going on in the inner recesses of our hearts has to be a reflection of how we are on the outside.

He sees within the seemingly mundane instructions to build the Holy Ark, a message to the Jew, that within him his inner life should be like his outer life. Don't be a fake. Don't be a hypocrite.

But look again carefully. The statement of Rabbah in the Talmud is not saying that your outside should reflect what is going on –on the inside. Instead it says that ***Tocho kebaro***- your inside should be a reflection of the outside.

What's the difference? Simple. ***Tocho kebaro*** means: You might on the inside not have any inclination to be a kind generous loving person. However you need to show on the outside how you are a person who is caring, generous and kind and that eventually will reflect on your inside and change who you are. You create; you project the image of kindness to change the inner self

So this is the message of the *Aron Hakodesh*- overlay it with gold inside and out-
Make sure that our insides reflect the image that we project on the outside

Shabbat Shalom