

## ParShaT *TeRuMaH* - One Pager Series

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### Rashi #1: Biblical Text: Ex26-30a,b

You will erect the Temple,

According to its arrangement, as you were shown while on the mountain [Sinai]

**Rashi Text: #1,#2:** [Note the contrast of the underlined words; *will erect* vs. *were shown*, that is future vs. past]. The parallel structure is explained as follows:

- On Mount Sinai Moses was shown [past] the completed Temple (in a vision)
- In the future, God will similarly show Moses the sequence of steps to achieve the goal of the properly arranged Temple

**Rashiyomi Explanation:** Rashi is pretty explicit here. Rashi is using the parallelism method. Here the parallelism contrasts past and future; in the past, Moses was shown the *completed* Temple; in the future God will show Moses the sequence of steps to achieve erecting the Temple to its completion.

### Rashi #2: Biblical Text: Ex27-02b Overlay the Temple altar with copper

**Rashi Text: #1:** Copper: To atone on brazenness, for example, Is 48:4, *and your forehead is copper* [referring in context to brazen behavior.]

**Rashiyomi Explanation:** Before we give the correct explanation, we show how one might try to apply other Rashi methods. For example, one could try to apply the parallelism method: Most Temple utensils (Ark, Table, Candelabra) have overlays of *gold*; the contrast that the altar was overlaid with *copper* creates a parallelistic nuance that has to be explained. One then seeks verses to explain it.

However, this is way too shallow. The proper approach is not to use the *parallelism* pillar but rather to use the *symbolism* exegetical pillar since all items in the Temple symbolically instruct. In the space of a page, we cannot fully cover every last detail but we can go over basics. *Copper* is a precious metal. There were three precious metals used in the construction of the Temple, *gold*, *silver*, *copper*. One does not ascertain their symbolic meaning by choosing at random verse but rather by looking at dozens of verses and seeing an overall pattern. In this case *copper*, *silver*, *copper* refer to three stages in intimate relations. These three stages differ in the degree of lack of impetuosity in the relationship. There are words for all these phases in all languages. The stages can happen in an individual during the various periods of his or her life; or, the stages can happen in different people each of whom has a certain type.

Besides looking at verses, one can look at function: What are these metals used for? These precious metals differ in their ability to get tarnished by excessive heat; for that reason cooking (exposure to fire, symbolic of exposure to being burned) is done primarily with copper, secondarily with silver, and rarely with gold.

Torahitic psychology does not require explicit discussion of problems (non-invasive) nor explicit confrontation on desired behavior. Goals are communicated symbolically; each person absorbs at their own pace. The altar and its utensils instructs on how to transit from the *copper* stage to the *silver* and *gold* stage.