

ASK THE RABBI

Question: The word kedusha is thrown around to describe anything from prayers, places, people and even God. What is kedusha?

Answer: We are firm believers that kedusha is not a physical reality. When something is kodosh it doesn't have a special character to it more than any other object. Therefore we don't translate kedusha as holy. In fact holiness has no place in the Torah philosophy. Holiness assumes a special quality in whatever matter posses the holiness.

The definition of kedusha can be gleaned from a cow. A cow that is dedicated to the Beit Hamikdash takes on kedusha. Legally one cannot use that cow for his own benefit, as it no longer belongs to him, but to the Beit Hamikdash. The definition of kedusha is sanctified, as in separated. The cow in our example is separated in that it is reserved for the Beit Hamikdash.