



Parshas Shemini

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In this week's *Parsha*, we read about the death of Nadav and Avihu who were killed by a heavenly fire. **The *Rashbam* gives a unique explanation for their punishment.**

The *Rashbam* explains that the עבירה of *Nadav* and *Avihu* was that they didn't follow the orders of *Moshe Rabbeinu* properly, not that they sinned by not listening to G-d as most other *Rishonim* learn.

The *Rashbam* explains further that this was the first day that *Hashem's* heavenly fire would rest on the Mishkan, so therefore *Moshe* did not command them to bring their own natural fire as was commanded by G-d every other day, as *Moshe* wanted that on this auspicious day when the fire would miraculously come down for the very first time all should see the heavenly fire vividly and an-obscured from any other fire. **This awesome sight would bring tremendous קידוש השם, glory to *HaShem's* name.**

Nadav and *Avihu* did not wait for a command from *Moshe* and on their own, understandably, though wrong, brought their own fire like any other day and because they functioned unilaterally without hearing a command from *Moshe* they were severely punished by death. It seems that the spiritual giants *Nadav* *Avihu* lacked on some minuscule level an appreciation for following our leaders, our *Rabbeim* for guidance, for *Daas Torah*.

According to the *Rashbam*, It wasn't not waiting for instructions from *Hashem* - it was not waiting for instructions from their *Rebbe* - *Moshe*!

If our holy teachers *Nadav* and *Avihu* can err in this regard, we can see how much we must humble ourselves and work on ourselves to understand the importance of following *Torah* Guidance, *Daas Torah* as it is like following the *Torah* itself.