

Terumah 5776/2016 – HkonJ Rally in Raleigh
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There is a rally going on tomorrow morning in Raleigh.

There is a rally going on tomorrow morning to wake up our State to the myriad of 'issues' facing North Carolinians. And this rally, in Raleigh, is one that effects each of us right here in our lives.

Why? Because of what it says in the Torah for this Shabbat. No more and no less.

Create for a ME a holy place and I shall dwell among them.

God does not need a sanctuary. The Tabernacle is merely a representation of the larger whole: The holiness that we are trying to create within our entire camp. But the larger issue of creating a holy space is one that should cause us to question what it means to create a holy society. A society in which God feels comfortable and which

God feel as if God fits in such that God can comfortable everywhere and anywhere.

But God cannot fit in when there are schools where teachers do not have adequate resources or adequate pay. God cannot fit in when programs for at-risk students are cut.

God does not fit in to a state where the minimum wage is inadequate for a minimum standard of living.

God cannot fit in when North Carolina rivers are used as sewers for toxic dumping by Duke Energy, destroying ecosystems.

God cannot fit in to a health care system that refuses to participate in receiving allocated funds from the Federal government.

God cannot fit in while the State fails to address earlier days of forced sterilization and current days of unacknowledged segregation.

God cannot fit in when access to voting is restricted and altered for those who have the least access to this basic democratic right.

God cannot fit in when racial injustice leaves thousands of minority and low-income men and women in a prison system deeply in need of reform.

God cannot fit in when men and women from NC and every other state are sent to fight impossible battles in far away lands and are ill-treated upon their return: injured and broken by what they have seen and been asked to do.

There is a rally in Raleigh tomorrow that calls on us to do as the Torah has instructed: Make a holy dwelling place so that God may dwell among us.

There is a coalition of support for this rally and the platform being advanced which ranges from creating easier access to voting and repealing race-based redistricting to demanding that the State receive all Medicaid expansion federal funds and find the means to help the working poor obtain medical insurance. The rally calls on protecting women and protecting the innocent, protecting the environment and protecting immigrants.

The rally calls on us to create a holy society in which God can dwell comfortably.

No state legislator will ever keep God out of our lives or out of our actions, though we may fight to keep God out of the legislature. Though no one can keep God out, it is upon us (aleinu) to bring God in.

May we work to help God fit in and feel comfortable to dwell among us in our lives, in our families, in our homes, in our schools, in our cities and in our communities. But in order for God to feel at home, we have to make this world one that is filled with holiness and kindness, equity and balance.

