

Understanding Shelichut

The power of an emissary

Genesis 32:4

וַיִּשְׁלַח יַעֲקֹב מַלְאָכִים לְפָנָיו אֶל עֵשָׂו אָחִיו אֶרְצָה שְׂעִיר שָׂדֵה אֱדוֹם

You Jacob sent angels ahead of him to his brother Esau, to the land of Seir, the field of Edom.

Numbers 18:28

כֵּן תָּרִימוּ גַם אַתֶּם תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה

So shall you too set aside a gift for the Lord

Maimonides: Positive Commandment #129

The 129th *mitzvah* is that the Levites are commanded to give the kohanim *ma'aser* (one-tenth) from the *ma'aser* they themselves get from the Israelites.

The source of this commandment is G-d's statement, "Speak to the Levites and say to them: 'When you take from the Israelites the *ma'aser* that I have given you as your inheritance from them, you must separate from it G-d's *terumah*, *ma'aser* from the *ma'aser*' "

The Torah explains that this *ma'aser*, which is called *terumas ma'aser*, is given to the Kohen. This is seen from the verse, "And you must give it as G-d's *terumah* to Aharon the Kohen."

Mishnah Torah Laws of Ishut 3:14

A man may appoint an agent to consecrate a wife for him. [This applies] if he specifies a particular woman, or gives the agent the authority to consecrate any woman.

Mishnah Torah Laws of Terumot 4:1

A person may appoint an agent to separate *terumah* and the tithes for him, as [Numbers 18:28] states: "So shall you separate, also you." [The wording implies] the inclusion of an agent.