

WHOEVER IS OF A WILLING HEART SHALL BRING IT*

קָחוּ מֵאֲתֶכֶם תְּרוּמָה לַיהוָה

כֹּל נָדִיב לְבוֹ יִבְאֶה

אֶת תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה זָהָב וְכֶסֶף וְנַחְשֵׁת:

Take from among you an offering to Adonai;
whoever is of a willing heart shall bring it,
the offering of Adonai: gold and silver and brass.

Take from among you—It was to be gathered from all the women and men (38:29), from the skilled and unskilled, from the learned and unlettered; every person, no matter their station, could contribute to building the sacred precincts; every person's contribution was needed and valued, not only that of the more well-off. *An offering to Adonai*—The generosity of the people would not accrue to Moses or other leaders but would be singularly dedicated to the service of Adonai. *Whoever is of a willing heart shall bring it*—That is, whoever was willing to freely assume the “yoke of heaven,” not simply to give gold but to self-impose commitment to the demands of the covenant as well. *The offering of Adonai*—They brought their offerings for the sake of heaven, not to impress their neighbors or for any other base reason. *Gold and silver and brass*—Each had some metal of some value that could be contributed, if not gold then silver or even brass, so each had the capacity and thus the opportunity to share in the creation and ownership of the sacred center of the community.

* Exodus 38:5 (in Vayakhla)