

GHALIEX IL-QNIEPEN JINTUZAW WAQT IL-QUDDIESA?



Il-qniepen ilhom parti komuni mill-qima divina minn zmien Mosè.

Dejjem skont il-knisja li tattendi, tista' tisma l-hoss ta' qampiena idoqq f'mumenti centrali fil-Quddiesa. Filwaqt li ma ghadiex prattika universali fil-Knisja Kattolika, din il-haga tindika prattika storika antika li tqajjem is-sensi Tagħna waqt il-liturgija.

Meta jiddeskrivi l-ilbies li kellu jintlibes mill-qassisin ta' Izrael, bhal Aron, Alla jispjega lil Mose kif għandhom ikunu meħjuta il-qniepen fuqhom.

"Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: holy to the Lord.³⁷ Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban. Exodus 28:36 – 37.

The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl; 18 the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald; 19 the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst; 20 the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper. Exodus 28: 17 - 21

"Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel. Exodus 28: 9 - 10.

Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the Lord. Exodus 28:30.

Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. Exodus 28: 17 - 21.

"Make the ephod of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen—the work of skilled hands. Exodus 28: 6 – 8.

Bare foot, as he was standing on Holy ground.

Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them.³⁴ The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe.³⁵ Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord and when he comes out, so that he will not die. Exodus 28:33 – 34.

Diagram by Simon Brown

"Make linen undergarments as a covering for the body, reaching from the waist to the thigh. . Exodus 28:42 - 43.

31“Aghmel ukoll il-libsa tal-efod kollha vjola.

32F’nofsha tagħmlilha skullatura għar-ras. Aghmel tberfila minsuġa madwar il-fetha, bħal skullatura ta’ qmis biex ma tiċċarratx. 33Mal-keffa tagħha ddendel bħal rummien vjola, porpra u skarlatt, bi ġliegħel tad-deheb dawramejt. 34Golġol tad-deheb u rummiena, ġolġol tad-deheb u rummiena, mal-keffa tal-libsa, id-dawra kollha. 35U jilbisha Aron kull meta jkun jagħmel is-servizz tiegħi; u l-ħoss tagħha jinstama’ meta jidħol fis-santwarju quddiem il-Mulej, u meta joħroġ; u hekk ma jmutx.

Eżodu 28:33-35

Il-qniepen kienu parti ntegrali mill-qima divina, kemm biex jindaqq hoss ferriehi quddiem il-Mulej kif ukoll biex ibieghdu l-ispirti hziena. Din il-karatteristika partikolari tal-qniepen għadha tinxamm fil-barka tal-qniepen godda fir-Ritwal Ruman fejn il-qassis jitlob: “Għad-daqq tal-qampien halli l-ispirti hziena kollha jitkeccew ‘l bogħod.”

Hekk kif il-Kristjanemu kiber u xtered madwar id-dinja, il-qniepen gew mizjuda bil-mod mal-liturgija b'diversi modi. Ghall-bidu il-qniepen kienu immuntati fit-torrijiet jew kampnari barra mill-knejjes biex isejhu n-nies ghall-qima, izda ma damux wisq ma intuzaw fl-idejn għal skopijiet simili. Pereżempju, huwa mahsub li San Patrizju kull fejn kien iwaqqaf parrocca jew komunita' gdida gewwa l-Irlanda kien jafdaha

f'idejn xi dixxiplu tieghu biex imexxiha u jordnalhu biex juza qampiena halli jsejjah lin-nies ghat-talb u biex juzaha waqt ic-ceremonji religjuzi.



Aktar konformi mat-Testment il-Qadim, qniepen zghar gew adattati fil-Knejjes tal-Lvant b'diversi modi, bhal nghidu ahna, qniepen li kieni mwahhla ma' l-incensier li fih kien jinharaq l-incens uzat waqt il-qima divina.

Fir-Rit Ruman eventwalment il-qniepen tal-idejn kieni jintuzaw mill-abbatini biex jimmarkaw mumenti mportanti waqt il-Quddiesa.

Bhalissa tibqa' ghazla, kif hemm imnizzel fl-Istruzzjoni Generali tal-Missal Ruman: "Ftit qabel il-

Konsagrazzjoni, jekk xieraq, ministru. iddoqq qanpiena żghira bhala sinjal lill-fidili. Il-ministru jdoqq ukoll il-qanpiena ckejkna f'kull elevazzjoni mill-Qassis, skont id-drawwa lokali" (Nru 150).

Il-qniepen għandhom qawwa spiritwali kbira u javzaw lis-sensi tagħna għal dak li qed isehħ quddiemna. Huma mhux biss jipprovokaw l-attenzjoni tagħna, izda huma wkoll "hoss ta' ferh" fil-mumenti

centrali fil-Quddiesa waqt il-konsagrazzjoni meta Alla jinzel mis-Sema u jiehu d-dehra ta' hobż u nbid.

Mhijiex intenzjonata li tkun distrazzjoni, imma mod iehor kif infahru lil Alla u niffukaw l-attenzjoni tagħna distratta. Jew kif ikanta s-Salmista, “ 5Faħħruh bid-daqq qawwi taċ-ċimbali, faħħruh bid-damdim taċ-ċimbali! 6Kulma jieħu nifs, ħa jfaħħar il-Mulej! (Salm 150:5-6)