# Parshas Emor

**Shmuz by Rabbi Chaim Juni**
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The Seforno on this week's Parsha explains the reason why a Kohen cannot become impure by going to a regular funeral. **He says that a Kohen also has the role of a teacher of Torah, so he needs to ask in a princely fashion.** And if he becomes impure from attending a funeral, he can't go to the Beis Hamikdash or eat holy foods, and that is because he went to a funeral which gives honor to a different person. **But if it's the funeral of one of his seven relatives, the Torah allows him to attend because by going to the funeral he is actually honoring himself and that therefore doesn't impact his effectiveness as a teacher.**

It seems from the Seforno, that the reason why a Kohen cannot attend a funeral generally is because he will lose his own respect and diminish his effectiveness as a teacher. So another example would be that if the Kohen would bend down to pick up someone else's wallet from the mud that may be improper because he's giving up his own honor for someone else. But if the Kohen would do the same act for himself then that's OK and people will not lose respect for him.

What we see from here is that when someone does a self depreciating act of honor even for other great people, and even for a great cause, people won't respect him as much. An honorable person doesn't make himself impure! When another person sees this person lower himself, he can't look at him the same way ever again! **The teacher falls off his pedestal, and even though this seems to make no sense, no matter how hard the student tries he won't be able to learn from him the same way!**

**This is a very important lesson for teachers, Rebbeim, and people who are in position to impact others**. While of course this needs to be balanced well with the  need to create a connection with students, we have to realize as well, that people will not look at us the same and will not learn from us the same way if we act in any was that diminishes our respect!