

Midrash Tanchuma, Chukat 8

A 'young woman's child' once soiled the floor of the royal palace.

Said the king: "Let his mother come and clean up her child's filth."

By the same token, Gd says, "Let the Red Heifer atone for the deed of the Golden Calf."

Here above is the connection as outlined by the Jewish Midrashic tradition which contrasts the "red heifer," which is a Gd-prescribed antidote to the ritual impurity caused by contact with death as emanating from the sin of the golden calf.

Below we have the original purification process Moses prescribes for the Golden Calf . . .

Exodus 32:19

ט ויהי, כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה, וַיֵּרָא אֶת-הָעֵגֶל, וּמַחֲלֹת; וַיַּחַר-אַף מֹשֶׁה, וַיִּשְׁלֹךְ מִיָּדוֹ אֶת-הַלְּחֹת, וַיִּשְׁבֵּר אֹתָם, תַּחַת הַהָר.	Exodus 32: 19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and broke them beneath the mount.
כ ויקח את-הָעֵגֶל אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ, וַיִּשְׂרֹף בְּאֵשׁ, וַיִּטְחֵהוּ, עַד אֲשֶׁר-דָּק; וַיִּזֹּר עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם, וַיִּשְׁק אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.	20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and strewed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.
כא ויאמר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן, מָה-עָשִׂיתָ לָךְ הַעַם הַזֶּה: כִּי-הִבֵּאתָ עָלֵינוּ, חַטָּאת גְּדוֹלָה.	21 And Moses said unto Aaron: 'What did this people do unto thee, that thou hast brought a great sin upon them?'
כב ויאמר אַהֲרֹן, אֶל-יַחֲזִיק אֵפֶי אֲדֹנָי; אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֶת-הָעַם, כִּי בָרַע הוּא.	22 And Aaron said: 'Let not the anger of my lord wax hot; thou knowest the people, that they are set on evil.'
כג ויאמרו לי--עֲשֵׂה-לָנוּ אֱלֹהִים, אֲשֶׁר יֵלְכוּ לִפְנֵינוּ: כִּי-זֶה מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר הֵעֵלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם--לֹא יָדַעְנוּ, מָה-הָיָה לוֹ.	23 So they said unto me: Make us a god, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not what is become of him.
כד וָאֵמַר לָהֶם לְמִי זֶהב, הַתְּפָרְקוּ וַיִּתְּנוּ-לִי; וְאִשְׁלַכְתֶּם בְּאֵשׁ, וַיִּצָּא הָעֵגֶל הַזֶּה.	24 And I said unto them: Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off; so they gave it me; and I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.'
כה וַיֵּרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הָעַם, כִּי פָרַע הוּא: כִּי-פָרְעָה אַהֲרֹן, לְשִׂמְצָה בְקִמְיָהֶם.	25 And when Moses saw that the people were broken loose--for Aaron had let them loose for a derision among their enemies--
כו וַיַּעֲמֵד מֹשֶׁה, בְּשַׁעַר הַמַּחֲנֶה, וַיֹּאמֶר, מִי לַיהוָה אֵלָי; וַיֵּאֱסָפוּ אֵלָיו, כָּל-בְּנֵי לֵוִי.	26 then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said: 'Whoso is on the LORD'S side, let him come unto me.' And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

<p>כז וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, שִׁימוּ אִישׁ-חַרְבּוֹ, עַל-יָרְכוֹ; עִבְרוּ וְשׁוּבוּ מִשְׁעַר לְשַׁעַר, בְּמַחֲנֶה, וְהָרְגוּ אִישׁ-אֶת-אָחִיו וְאִישׁ אֶת-רֵעֵהוּ, וְאִישׁ אֶת-קָרְבוֹ.</p>	<p>27 And he said unto them: 'Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: Put ye every man his sword upon his thigh, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.'</p>
<p>כח וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי-לֵוִי, כְּדַבַּר מֹשֶׁה; וַיִּפְּלוּ מִן-הָעָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, כֶּשֶׁלֶשֶׁת אֲלָפֵי אִישׁ.</p>	<p>28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses; and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.</p>
<p>כט וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה, מָלְאוּ יְדֵכֶם הַיּוֹם לַיהוָה, כִּי אִישׁ בָּבְנוֹ, וּבְאָחִיו-- וְלַתֵּת עֲלֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם, בְּרָכָה.</p>	<p>29 And Moses said: 'Consecrate yourselves to-day to the LORD, for every man hath been against his son and against his brother; that He may also bestow upon you a blessing this day.'</p>
<p>ל וַיְהִי, מִמָּחָרֹת, וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-הָעָם, אַתֶּם חָטְאתֶם חֲטָאָה גְדֹלָה; וְעַתָּה אֶעֱלֶה אֶל-יְהוָה, אוֹלִי אֲכַפְּרָה בְּעַד חֲטָאתְכֶם.</p>	<p>30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people: 'Ye have sinned a great sin; and now I will go up unto the LORD, peradventure I shall make atonement for your sin.'</p>
<p>לא וַיֵּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל-יְהוָה, וַיֹּאמֶר: אָנָּה, חָטָא הָעָם הַזֶּה חֲטָאָה גְדֹלָה, וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם, אֱלֹהֵי זָהָב.</p>	<p>31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said: 'Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them a god of gold.'</p>
<p>לב וְעַתָּה, אִם-תִּשָּׂא חֲטָאתָם; וְאִם-אֵין--מַחֲנֵי נָא, מִסִּפְרֶךָ אֲשֶׁר כָּתַבְתָּ.</p>	<p>32 Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written.'</p>
<p>לג וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה: מִי אֲשֶׁר חָטָא-לִי, אֶמְחֶנּוּ מִסִּפְרִי.</p>	<p>33 And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.'</p>

<p>א וַיֵּרָא הָעָם, כִּי-בִשְׁשׁ מִשֶׁה לָּרֹדֶת מִן-הָהָר; וַיִּקְהַל הָעָם עַל-אֶהֱרֹן, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו קוּם עֲשֵׂה-לָנוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יֵלְכוּ לִפְנֵינוּ--כִּי-זֶה מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מָה-הָיָה לוֹ.</p>	<p>Exodus 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him: 'Up, make us a god who shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not what is become of him.'</p>
<p>ב וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם, אֶהֱרֹן, פָּרְקוּ נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב, אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵי נְשֵׁיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם וּבְנֹתֵיכֶם; וְהָבִיאוּ, אֵלָי.</p>	<p>2 And Aaron said unto them: 'Break off the golden rings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.'</p>

<p>ג וַיִּתְּפְרוּקוּ כָּל-הָעָם, אֶת-נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב, אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם; וַיְבִיאוּ, אֶל-אַהֲרֹן.</p>	<p>3 And all the people broke off the golden rings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.</p>
<p>ד וַיִּקַּח מִיָּדָם, וַיַּצַּר אֹתוֹ בַּחֲרֹט, וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ, עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה; וַיֹּאמְרוּ--אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר הָעֵלֹנָךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.</p>	<p>4 And he received it at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it a molten calf; and they said: 'This is thy god, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.'</p>
<p>ה וַיֵּרָא אַהֲרֹן, וַיְבֹן מִזְבֵּחַ לְפָנָיו; וַיִּקְרָא אַהֲרֹן, וַיֹּאמֶר, חַג לַיהוָה מָחָר.</p>	<p>5 And when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said: 'To-morrow shall be a feast to the LORD.'</p>
<p>ו וַיִּשְׁכִּימוּ, מִמָּחָרֶת, וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת, וַיִּגִּשׁוּ שְׁלָמִים; וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם לֶאֱכֹל וְשֵׂת, וַיִּקְמוּ לְצַחֵק. {פ}</p>	<p>6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings, and brought peace-offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to make merry. {P}</p>
<p>ז וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה: לֵךְ-רַד--כִּי שָׁחַת עַמְּךָ, אֲשֶׁר הָעֵלִיתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.</p>	<p>7 And the LORD spoke unto Moses: 'Go, get thee down; for thy people, that thou broughtest up out of the land of Egypt, have dealt corruptly;</p>
<p>ח סָרוּ מִהֵרָ, מִן-הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתֶם--עֲשׂוּ לָהֶם, עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה; וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ-לוֹ, וַיִּזְבְּחוּ-לוֹ, וַיֹּאמְרוּ, אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הָעֵלֹנָךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.</p>	<p>8 they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed unto it, and said: This is thy god, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.'</p>