FROM THE WORKSHOP OF THE REDACTOR H_R:
AN EGALITARIAN THRUST

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I. IDENTIFICATION

I shall not examine all the possible H_R passages but only those that, in my opinion, most likely stem from his hand. They are subdivided into three groups: within Leviticus (H), within Leviticus (P), and outside Leviticus.

A. H_R Within H (Lev 17–27)

1. Lev 18:1–5, 24–30. This is H_R's frame for the sexual prohibitions, 18:6–23. That the latter probably represents an older list is shown by the term חֵרֵב. Only one prohibition in the list is called חֵרֵב (v. 22), whereas all the prohibitions are labeled והָא תְּעֹבֵר in the closing exhortation of the frame (vv. 26, 27, 29). Their combination in chapter 18 is the achievement of H_R.

2. 19:5–8. H_R placed this pericope on the praise of sacrifice near the top of chapter 19 so as to have its rationale המֶלְךּ אֶת הָא לֶיאל corresponding with the equivalent expression המֶלְךּ אֶת הָא (22:32), thereby encompassing all the commands enjoining Israel to be holy (םֶלְךּ; see no. 6, below).

3. 19:33–36. The units on the חֵרֵב (vv. 33–34) and honest trading (vv. 35–36) may be supplements. Once removed, the chapter's original close forms an inclusion with its opening (vv. 3–4). The insertion of this supplement can be attributed to H_R.

4. Chapters 20 and 18 contain similar prohibitions (20:9–21; 18:6–23) and initial and final exhortations (20:7–8, 22–26; 18:2b–5, 24–30),

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1 The following verses are discussed in J. Milgrom, Leviticus 17–22 (AB 3a. New York: Doubleday), (2000), and Leviticus 23–27 (AB 3b. New York: Doubleday), (2001). They are mostly assigned to h. Here the H_R designation is more precise.

thereby projecting chapter 19 as the pinnacle of Leviticus (P + H)—
the work of the redactor H<sub>R</sub>.

5. 21:24. This compliance report is clearly H<sub>R</sub>’s addition, since
nowhere in chapter 21 is Moses commanded to speak to the Israelites.
It signifies that the priests’ bodily defects (chapter 21) just as the
high priests’ rites on the Day of Purgation (לְּכָּת, 16:29, 31, 34 [H])
fall under the supervision of all Israel.

6. 22:29–30. H<sub>R</sub> split the two main sacrifices of the הָלָם, the
and the הָלוֹא (cf. 7:11), placing the former at the head of chapter
19 (cf. no. 2) and the latter at the end of chapter 22, thereby cre-
ating an envelope for encompassing all H occurrences of spatial מָזַר.

7. 23:2ab–3, 42–43. H<sub>R</sub>, who probably resides in the Babylonian
exile, composed the pericopes on the הָלוֹא מָזַר and מָזַר in order to sal-
vage some observance of the defunct cultic calendar (vv. 4–38) so
that Israel might retain its religious and ethnic identity.

8. 24:4. This verse, H<sub>R</sub>’s redactional supplement to vv. 2–3,
clarifies that the lampstand comprises more than a single lamp.

9. 25:1. This verse forms an envelope with 26:46. Since all the
preceding chapters (Lev 1–24) were revealed to Moses from the Tent
of Meeting, these two chapters (25 and 26), revealed at Mt. Sinai,
are anomalous. They form a distinct מָזַר. They show none of the
verbal hallmarks of H (e.g. holiness [מְדַק], impurity [טָמַא] of the per-
son or the land).

10. 25:5–6. These two verses ostensibly contradict each other. The
contradiction vanishes once it is realized that vv. 1–5 are a rework-
ing by H<sub>R</sub> of Exod 21:10–11. H<sub>R</sub> excises the sabbatical beneficiaries
in the latter. Instead, H<sub>R</sub> provides its own beneficiary list, vv. 6–7.

11. 26:1–2. H<sub>R</sub>—alluding to the Decalogue (cf. also 19:3–4, 12a
[H])—sums up the divine laws determinative of Israel’s continuous
presence in the land.

12. 26:33b–35. Compensation must be made for the sabbaticals
neglected in the past. That is, the land must remain barren before
Israel can be restored.

13. Chapter 27 (and 17). H<sub>R</sub> concludes the book of Leviticus as it
opens (chapter 1) with a chapter (27) on voluntary contributions to
the sanctuary. It also serves as a close to the bloc of H passages
beginning with chapter 17.