

## PHILO

- 177 Ταῦτα περὶ τῆς ἐβδόμης διαταξάμενος ταῖς νομηνίαις φησὶ δεῖν θύειν ὀλόκαυτα δέκα τὰ σύμπαντα· μόσχους δύο, κριὸν ἓνα, ἀμνοὺς ἑπτὰ. ἐπειδὴ γὰρ ὁ μὴν τέλειος, ἐν ᾧ σελήνη τὸν ἑαυτῆς κύκλον περατοῦται,<sup>1</sup> τέλειον ἀριθμὸν ζώων ἠξίωσεν
- 178 ἱερουργεῖσθαι. ἡ δεκάς δὲ παντελῆς ἀριθμὸς, ὃν εὖ μάλα διένειμεν εἰς τὰ λεχθέντα, τοὺς μὲν δύο μόσχους, ἐπειδὴ δύο κινήσεις εἰσὶ σελήνης αἰεὶ διαυλοδρομούσης, ἡ μὲν κατ' αὔξησιν ἄχρι πλησιφαοῦς, ἡ δὲ κατὰ μείωσιν ἄχρι συνόδου, τὸν δ' ἓνα κριόν, ἐπειδὴ λόγος εἰς ἔστι, καθ' ὃν αὔξεται τε καὶ μειοῦται τοῖς ἴσοις διαστήμασι καὶ φωτιζομένη καὶ ἐπιλείπουσα, τοὺς δὲ ἑπτὰ ἀμνοὺς, ὅτι καθ' ἐβδομάδας ἐπιδέχεται τοὺς τελείους σχηματισμούς, πρώτη μὲν ἐβδομάδι τῇ ἀπὸ συνόδου τὸν διχότομον, δευτέρα δὲ τὸν πλησιφαῆ, καὶ ὅταν ἀνακάμπτη πάλιν, εἰς διχότομον τὸ πρῶτον, ἔπειτ' εἰς σύνοδον
- 179 ἀπολήγει. μετὰ δὲ τῶν ἱερείων σεμίδαλιν ἀναδεδευμένην ἐλαίῳ προσφέρειν καὶ οἶνον εἰς σπονδάς μέτροις (ῥιτισμέν)οις<sup>2</sup> διετάξατο, διότι καὶ ταῦτα σελήνης περιόδοις κατὰ τὰς ἑτησίους ὥρας τελεσφορεῖται διαφερόντως τοὺς καρποὺς πεπαινούσης, σίτος δὲ καὶ οἶνος καὶ ἔλαιον, βιωφελέσταται οὐσίαι καὶ πρὸς χρῆσιν ἀνθρώποις ἀναγκαιόταται, πάσαις εἰκότως θυσίαις συγκαθιεροῦνται.

<sup>1</sup> So Cohn: mss. *περαιούται*. I feel very doubtful about the correction. The use of *περαιούμαι* for "cross," "pass over" is common enough, and the association with a cycle, if rather strange, is not impossible. On the other hand, while *περατοῦσθαι* in a passive sense is common, I have not seen any example of its use as a transitive middle.

<sup>2</sup> So Cohn. Perhaps μέτροις οἷς <εἶδει or δεῖ> διετάξατο.

<sup>a</sup> See Num. xxviii. 11-14.

## THE SPECIAL LAWS, I. 177-179

Having given these orders with regard to the 177 seventh days, he deals with the new moons. <sup>a</sup>At these times whole-burnt-offerings must be sacrificed, ten in all, two calves, one ram, and seven lambs. For since the month in which the moon fulfils its cycle is a complete or perfect whole,<sup>b</sup> he considered that the number of animals to be sacrificed should be perfect. Now ten is a perfect number, and he dis- 178 tributed it excellently among the above-mentioned items ; two calves because the moon as she runs for ever her race forwards and backwards has two motions, one as she waxes till she becomes full, one as she wanes to her conjunction with the sun ; one ram because there is one law or principle by which she waxes and wanes at equal intervals, both when her light grows and when it fails ; seven lambs because the complete changes of form to which she is subject are measured in sevens.<sup>c</sup> In the first seven from the conjunction we have the half moon, in the second the full moon, and when she is reversing her course she passes first into the half moon and then dies away into the conjunction. With the victims 179 he ordered that fine meal, soaked in oil, should be brought, and wine for libations in stated quantities, because these also are brought to their fullness by the revolutions of the moon at the various seasons of the year, and especially by its effect upon the ripening of the fruits, and corn, oil and wine are things possessing qualities most profitable to life and most necessary for human use and therefore are naturally consecrated with all the sacrifices.

<sup>b</sup> Or "since the month (*i.e.* the past month) is completed," and so Heinemann, but the context suggests that it is the month which is coming which is under consideration.

<sup>c</sup> *Cf. De Op.* 101.