


CHABAD

 RESEARCH UNIT

שבת..... *for Friday nights* קדש

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 Sedra Ekev

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THE INNER MOSES


IS IT EASY TO KEEP JEWISH TEACHING? TO KEEP KASHRUT, SHABBAT, AND EVEN TO have a feeling of love of G-d in one's heart? Well, people might give different answers to that. It is interesting that at one point in the Sedra¹, Moses says to the Jewish people: "Now, Israelites, what is G-d asking of you but to fear Him, to walk in His ways, to love Him, to serve Him with all your heart and soul, and to keep His laws... ?"²

The Talmud comments: is all this such a little thing? Yet Moses seems to be suggesting that it is very easy... The Talmud therefore suggests that for Moses himself it was indeed very easy to serve G-d, with all his "heart and soul"³.

This answer seems difficult to understand. What about everyone else, the people who are not as great as Moses? Surely the words of the Torah are addressed to the ordinary person, not just to the rare holy individual?

Chassidic teachings⁴ suggest an answer. Inside every single Jew, man and woman, there is a little bit of Moses. This is a spark of utter dedication to G-d. For that little bit of Moses within, every aspect of



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Judaism is indeed very easy. Nothing is difficult: neither the trouble, nor the expense, nor even what other people might say. For the Moses inside us, there are no problems...

So what *is* our problem? If we really have this force inside us, why don't we always behave in a perfect way, like Moses? The answer is that for most people, this inner Moses is hidden. The spiritual self is there, but it is covered over by our ordinary, everyday concerns. We forget our true inner reality, and let the weeks and years slip by...

In the Sedra, Moses was trying to arouse this spark which is within each of us. He was saying that it is all very easy, because in fact it is very easy for the "Moses" inside every Jew.

So how do we arouse this inner power? How can we make it a little easier to make a step forward in Jewish observance, feelings and values?

One point is the fact of knowing and remembering that this indeed *is* our inner reality, as Jewish men and women, including proselytes, going back thousands of years. This is what each one of us really is. And if this is who I am, a grandchild of Abraham and Sarah, with a spark of Moses within me - there is no problem!

This way of thinking can help us in many situations. A sportsman thinks to himself, "deep down, you can do it!" And so does a Jew.

When Moshiach comes, this inner Moses will suddenly be aroused in each individual. From our innermost being we will truly be able to recognise G-d, and we will help the rest of humanity connect with G-d as well. The focus of the world, including us, will be on our beautiful Temple in Jerusalem. And from Jerusalem will spread, globally, the teachings of Moses...

1. Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25. 2. Deut. 10:12. 3. Berachot 33b. 4. See Tanya Part 1 ch. 42.

Torah teachings are holy - please treat this page with care

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SEDRA EKEV

TO LIVE AGAIN

The family had woken up early. It was Summer and Sunday, so they were going on a trip. They were going to Alton Towers, a theme park about three hours from London, so they left the house, bundling into the car, at eight in the morning.

“I can’t wait to go on the ‘Nemesis’ ride, its so scary going so fast” said Michael excitedly from the back seat of the car. “I don’t have a stomach for that kind of ride” said Leah, “I prefer something more relaxing”.

They were driving on a clear road and there was little traffic, but suddenly they had to slow down. Ahead they saw a slow procession of four cars.

“Oh no” said Leah “traffic! What’s happening? What is this procession for?”

“I think it’s a funeral” said her father quietly. “I see a hearse at the front and the other cars are following it. I think it’s going to the Jewish cemetery which is near here”.

“Baruch Dayan ha-emet”, said their mother. “Blessed be the True Judge. That’s what you say when you hear that someone has passed away.”

“Oh well” said Michael, “that means that, in a way, we are taking part in the Mitzva of going to a funeral, because we are travelling the same way as the funeral procession.”

“That’s true” said Leah, “but tell me, what happens to the dead person after they pass away?”

“They go to Heaven” said Michael. “For ever?” asked Leah.

“Interesting you ask that, because it speaks about it in this week’s Sedra” said their father.

“Where does it say that in this week’s Sedra?” asked Michael. “I studied this Sedra and I didn’t notice it saying anything about people who have passed away.”

“Well,” said their father “in the second paragraph of the Shema, which is in the Sedra, at the end, it says that if you keep the Torah then your life will be lengthened ‘on the land which G-d swore to give to your forefathers’. Now, the Sages point out, our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, passed away before we actually settled in the Land of Israel. They lived in the Land but did not own it. So from here we understand that G-d will make our forefathers alive again, and give them the Land”.

“Yes,” said their mother. “That’s called the Revival of the Dead. In the Rambam’s list of Thirteen Principles of Faith, this one is number Thirteen.”

“So that means that people will become alive again?” said Michael. “Yes” said their father. “So we will be able to see Grandma again?” “Yes”.

“Wow,” said Leah, “when will that happen? When Moshiach comes?” “Yes,” answered their mother.

“The traffic is moving again” said their father, “With Hashem’s help, we will soon be there.”

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