



## DIVREI MENACHEM

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# Sometimes, Waiting is What it Takes

It appears that we spend many waking hours fantasizing. We have dreams, hopes, and plans. And, under normal circumstances, we turn our dreams into reality – or at least we strive to do so.

Sometimes, it takes a lifetime to fulfill our most precious desires; sometimes, in a fleeting moment, our dreams come true. But who has not been so close to achievement, only to see a treasured objective dissipate?

So, what was Moshe thinking when the Cloud of Glory settled above the Ohel Moed, and he waited tremulously at the entrance for Hashem's summons? For days and weeks, he and the people had labored to build the Mishkan in all its splendor – the peak of their holy mission to prepare a “residence” for the Shechinah and catalyst for the Divine Presence to dwell among the people.

And Moshe is waiting.

And then, Moshe hears the voice calling to him: “*Vayikra*” – ‘And he called.’ Of course, we know that “He” is Hashem because the Passuk continues that the Almighty spoke to Moshe from the Ohel Moed. But for one moment, let us imagine that, initially, Moshe

hears a voice, and –

Was that reverberating sound, perhaps, the inner voice of Moshe calling to himself? Was he prepared? For he was on the threshold of realizing one of his noblest achievements, bringing down the Holy Spirit into finite space, opening up the dialogue between fragile man and the All-Powerful.

Moreover, the Hebrew term “*Vayikra*” has a diminished letter “*Alef*.” Perhaps that means that, somehow, the Infinite Ein Sof contracted Itself (*Tzimzum*) so that Moshe could receive the divine message in a manner better to be communicated to mortal human beings.

Indeed, the call was intended for all of us (but as the rabbis say, only Moshe could hear it). Moshe was the conduit – but each of us is being challenged to listen to our unique calling. Yes! – “*Vayikra*” – there is the small silent voice of our inner conscience calling us. Having built the Mishkan, we have to invite Hakadosh Baruch Hu into *our* dwellings.

Yes, we will open our hearts and let the Almighty in. Then, like the Parsha's opening phrase, the intimate “He” will respond to our call. Then, and only then, Hashem will speak with us, and we can talk to each other.

Sometimes, waiting at the door is what it takes. ■

Shabbat Shalom!

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