



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

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HOLDING ON TO FAITH AFTER THE MIRACLE

After ten miraculous plagues, this week's parsha reaches its dramatic climax with Kriat Yam Suf. Imagine how it must have felt—the sense of awe and closeness to Hashem as Bnei Yisrael sang together, celebrating their newfound freedom. As their journey in the desert begins, their excitement quickly gives way to outrage and complaints. Almost immediately, concerns about hunger and thirst replace the declaration of “Hashem is my G-d and I will praise Him,” with desperate cries that it would have been better to die in Egypt.

Although it might seem impossible, we can become complacent with the miracles that Hashem does for us. Even after experiencing the highest spiritual moments, when our expectations aren't met, our inspiration can quickly fade. As the Midrash Tanchuma explains, this lack of emunah made Bnei Yisrael vulnerable, allowing Amalek to attack. This is exactly why Yehoshua, rather than Moshe, had to lead the battle. As a descendant of Yosef, Yehoshua had the ability to maintain closeness to Hashem through both blessing and hardship.

Hashem is always performing miracles for us, some revealed and some more hidden. Our challenge is to maintain that awareness

and trust in Him, remembering that even when it is difficult to see, the miracles are there. Just as the manna was provided daily for forty years, Hashem will always provide for us. As long as we put our trust in Him, even if it is not exactly as we expect, miracles will continue to come our way.

Shabbat Shalom.



MEIRA RUBIN

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TRUE FREEDOM BEGINS AT THE SEA

In this week's parsha, Beshalach, we witness some of the greatest miracles in our history. After the ten makkot, Am Yisrael finally leave Egypt and begin their journey toward freedom. But then, something confusing happens: instead of marching straight toward Eretz Yisrael, Bnei Yisrael turn back toward Egypt.

Suddenly, they are trapped, the sea in front of them and the Egyptian army charging from behind. In panic, they cry out to Moshe, “Why did you do this? It was better for us back in Egypt!”

At first glance, their reaction is hard to understand. Hashem had just performed open miracles for them; why couldn't they trust Him? The answer is that while they were physically out of Egypt, Egypt was not yet out of them. They were still carrying the mindset of slavery. Hashem led them back toward their fear so they could face it and

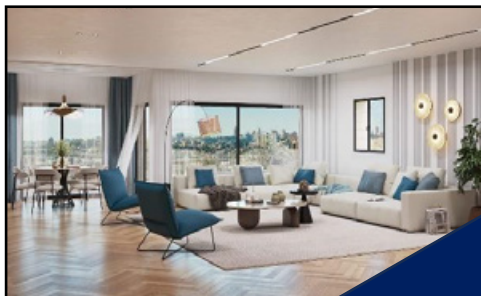
overcome it, teaching them that true freedom isn't just about where you are—it's about how you think.

We experience similar moments in our own lives. We take steps forward, try to grow, and then suddenly feel stuck or overwhelmed. The lesson of Kriat Yam Suf is that Hashem doesn't just remove obstacles; He strengthens us through them. Trusting Him means knowing that even when the path is unclear, He is guiding us forward. When we feel like we've reached a dead end, Hashem may actually be opening a new way, one we never imagined possible. ■

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