RABBI SHLOMO RAYMAN
BEIT SHEMESH DIRECTOR

PROPHECY TO THE PEOPLE: YITRO'S NOVEL IDEA

One of the first things I learned as a commander in the IDF is the importance of delegating jobs to other people. Why do something yourself if you can get others to do it? It is one of the most obvious and intuitive responsibilities of any leader.

In Parashat Yitro, we find Moshe working himself to exhaustion as the nation's sole judge. When Yitro advises him to delegate, we must wonder: why didn't Moshe think of this himself? Delegation seems like such an obvious solution to a heavy workload.

Perhaps there is something deeper going on here behind the scenes.

Moshe believed that interpreting God's will required prophecy. To Moshe, God's laws were a divine mystery that only a prophet could relay. He assumed no one else was qualified to determine God's intent in a dispute.

Yitro's *chiddush* (innovation) was that human intelligence can internalize divine wisdom. He taught Moshe to show the people the *derech* of the Torah-to teach them a framework of Torah that isn't just a set of arbitrary rules, but a system humans can understand and extrapolate from.

Yitro revealed that the Torah is not meant to stay "in Heaven." By teaching the underlying principles, Moshe could empower others to apply God's will using their own judgment. This transformed the Torah from a series of prophetic decrees into a living "way of life" accessible to all.

Torah doesn't belong to the prophets; it belongs to each and every one of us. Through hard work and creativity, we can learn the Torah system and connect our human minds to the divine wisdom of the Torah.

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WISDOM IN COLLABORATION

This week's Parsha, Yitro, begins with a powerful lesson in leadership and responsibility. After observing Moshe judge all the disputes of Bnei Yisrael by himself, Yitro tells him, "לֹא־טוֹב הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה." Yitro sees that Moshe's dedication is admirable, but warns that judging alone will wear him out and exhaust the people. Instead, he advises Moshe to appoint capable men as leaders over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, so that they may judge minor disputes while Moshe focuses on the most difficult cases.

This advice demonstrates that even great leaders cannot carry every burden alone. Great leadership requires sharing responsibility, trust, and the ability to empower others.

Rashi explains that Yitro's counsel was not only practical, but also wise, as it strengthened the entire nation by creating an organized

system of justice. The Ramban adds that Moshe accepted this advice humbly, showing that even the greatest leaders can learn from others.

This lesson connects directly to the giving of the Ten Commandments in the Parsha. Bnei Yisrael had to prepare themselves to receive the Torah, a moment that required order, guidance, and mutual responsibility. Just as Moshe organized the people for justice, the Torah provides a framework to help everyone live together with clarity and purpose.

Parashat Yitro teaches that wisdom, guidance, and collaboration are essential in both leadership and spiritual life. True strength is not only in what we can do alone, but in how we share responsibility and grow together.

Shabbat Shalom. ■

רפואה שלמה
Peleg Shabtai ben Chaviva Leah