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Yafit Atlas// Matan Sacknovitz-Hain

COVER PHOTO Photographed by David Hochhauser



I made aliya in 2014 and live in Bet Shemesh. I took this photo in Ramat Gan (Highland Park - my hometown in English) on my way to work. I wonder if Rav Kook could have envisioned the technological breakthroughs, in the heart of silicon wadi.

A SHORT VORT

BY RABBI CHANOCH YERES
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

When setting out to return to the troubled encampment, the epicenter of the golden calf sin, Moshe is told: לך רד כי שחת עמר

“Go forth, descend.” Why the need of the obvious redundancy- “go forth” would have sufficed without the additional “descend”?

Rashi tells us that the word “descend” was a command to Moshe to diminish his “own” level of personal greatness. Moshe, humbly assumed the posture of a leader whose discouraged and alienated people require his time and attention in their basic challenges and struggles in faith. “Descend from your own lofty heights of perfection in order to deal with the corruption that besets your people. The personal pronoun stressed “your nation”, is meant to remind Moshe of his true duty, to remain firmly attached to the people in his charge, always. He must turn back, pick up the pieces and restore their unswerving loyalty to G-d’s Torah.

The Meshech Chochmah (Rabbi Meir Simcha HaCohen from Dvinsk 1843-1926) adds that this was a call to Moshe to descend and embark on introspection and self-examination which would enable Moshe to identify fully with the sinful Israelites and to understand the nature of their sin to begin rehabilitating the nation.

- Shabbat Shalom