#### **PARSHAT PEKUDEI - SOURCE SHEET 2018**

#### 1. Shemot 40 - the Mishkan is built...

(יז) וַיִהִי בַּחֹדֵשׁ הַרָאשׁוֹן בַּשַּׁנַה הַשַּׁנִית בָּאָחַד לַחֹדֵשׁ הוּקָם הַמִּשְׁכַּן:

(יח) ויקם משה את המשכן

17. On the first day of the first month in the second year the Mishkan was built.

18 And Moses put up the Mishkan...

## 2. Midrash Tanchuma - What exactly happened?

כי בשעה שראו בני ישראל שנגמרה עבודת המשכן, היו להוטים לראות את הדבר בשלמותו ולראות כיצד תשרה השכינה עליו. מיד הלכו אצל האומנים וביקשו מהם שיקימו את המשכן. האומנים ניסו ונכשלו. הלכו ישראל אצל בצלאל ואהליאב לראות אולי הם יצליחו להעמיד את המשכן. גם הם ניסו והמשכן היה נופל בכל פעם. הלכו כולם למשה ושאלו מדוע המשכן אינו עומד, אולי טעו במלאכה. משה הצטער על כך. מיד אמר לו הקב״ה: דע שאני עשיתי כך, מהסיבה שאתה הצטערת קודם שלא הבאת שום תרומה לבניין המשכן, לכן עשיתי שאף אדם לא יוכל להעמידו חוץ ממך, שהכל תלוי בך.

"Once the Children of Israel saw that the work of the Mishkan was completed, the people sat and waited to see it in its final form, and how the Divine Presence would dwell within. Immediately they went to the workers and asked them to put it up. The workers tried and failed. They went to Bezalel and Oholiov to see whether they might succeed in putting up the Mishkan. They also tried and each time the Mishkan collapsed. They all went to Moshe and asked him why the Mishkan was not able to remain erect, maybe they had made a mistake in its construction. Moshe was very upset about it. God immediately said to him "[Don't be upset], I did this on purpose, because you were already upset that you didn't bring any gift for the construction of the Mishkan, and therefore I arranged that no one could put it up besides for you, because everything is down to you."

### 3. Rashi - another version of the Midrash

AND THEY BROUGHT THE TABERNACLE [TO MOSES etc.], for they themselves were unable to erect it. Since Moses had done no work in the Mishkan, God left for him the task of erecting it, for nobody else was able to set it up because of the weight of the boards which no human strength was capable of setting up. Moses, however, succeeded in placing it in position. Moses said to God, "How is its erection possible by human beings?" God answered him: "You do something with your hands!" He [only] appeared to be erecting it, but in fact it set itself up and rose of its own accord. That is why Scripture says, (Ex. 40:17) "The Tabernacle was erected (הוקם)" — was erected by itself.

#### 4. Did Moshe really do it by himself?

It is obvious that the Mishkan was not built in an ordinary way, for how was it possible for Moshe to build the entire structure himself, if all the others had been unable to do so beforehand? What happened was that God told him, "I will help you, you start, and the Mishkan will build itself! All you need to do is start the process, I will do the rest." Why does it say in the Torah, 'וַיָּקֶם מֹשֶׁה אֶת הַמִּשְׁכֶּן' – "Mosh put up the Mishkan"? The answer is in the Psalms, אם יְקוֹק לֹא יִבְנֶה בַיִּת שַׁוֹץ אַנְקְלוֹּ בּוֹנֶיִי בּוֹ חַשׁׁ (Ps. 127). God established the Mishkan at the hand of Moses to teach us that whatever we 'build', although we make the effort to get it built, in the end it is God who builds us the Mishkan that is the final result.

This answers another question on the Midrash -- it seems strange that God would reserve an honor for Moshe, and it turns out that it was something he couldn't even do. What kind of honor is that? The Torah is teaching us that even when it is someone as great as Moshe, the most important part of any endeavor is the effort expended trying to accomplish the goal, rather than the goal itself. The honor given to Moshe was to give him the opportunity of putting in the effort to build the Mishkan, and not the actual building part itself.

### 4. Likutey Moharan (R. Nachman of Breslov) - only Moshe could build the Mishkan

כֶּל הַדְּבָרִים הֵם עַל הָאָרֶץ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָנוּ רוֹאִין בְּחוּשׁ, שֶׁהַכֹּל גָּדֵל מִן הָאָרֶץ, וְכָל הַדְּבָרִים וְהַבְּרִיּוֹת הוֹלְכִים וּמֻנְּחִים עַל הָאָרֶץ, וְאִי אֶפְשָׁר שָׁיִפְּסְקוּ וְיָתְרַחְקוּ מֵהָאָרֶץ. אָם לֹא עַל־יְדֵי כֹּחַ הַמַּכְרִיחַ, הַיְנוּ עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁיֵשׁ מִי שֶׁמַּכְרִיחַ הַדְּבָר, וְנוֹטְלוֹ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ מֵהָאָרֶץ, וּמַרְחִיקוֹ מִמֶּנָּה. וּיְבִי שְׁיָבָּר מַהָּאָרֶץ. וְאָחַר־כָּדְ כְּשֶׁנְפְסָק כֹּחַ הַמַּכְרִיחַ, חוֹזֵר הַדָּבָר לְהָאָרֶץ... כִּי הָאָרֶץ יֵשׁ לָה כֹּחַ הַמּוֹשֵׁךְ, וּמִלְשְׁכָּת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים לְעַצְמָה. כִּי אִם לָאו, לֹא הָיוּ יְכוֹלִים לְהִתְקַיֵּם עָלֶיהָ, כִּי הָיָה רָאוּי לִפּּל מִמֶּנָה, מַחֲמַת שֶׁהִיא כַּדּוּרִית, וְכָל בְּנֵי הָעוֹלְם עֹלְיִהָ סְבִּיב סְבִּידִיעַ... וְהַצַּדִּיק הוּא בְּחִינַת עָפָר... כִּי הַצַּדִיק הוּא יְסוֹד עוֹלְם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (משלי י): "וְצַדִּיק יְסוֹד עוֹלְם". וְכָל הַדְּבָרִים עֵלְיוּ, וְיֵשׁ לוֹ כֹּחַ הַמּוֹשֵׁךְ, לְהַמְשִׁיךְ כַּל הַדְּבַרִים אֵלְיוֹ.

וְהָנֵה הָיָה רָאוּי שֶׁיִּמֶּשְׁכוּ כָּל בְּנֵי אָדָם לְזָה הַצַּדִּיק, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת עָפָר, שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ כֹּחַ הַמּוֹשֵׁךְ כַּנַּ"ל. אַךְ עַל־יְדֵי כֹּחַ הַמַּכְרִיחַ, מַפְּסִיקִין וּמַרְחִיקִין מִמֶּנוּ. הַיְנוּ, שֶׁיֵשׁ בְּנֵי אָדָם, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי דִּבּוּרָם וּמַעֲשֵׂיהֶם הֵם מַכְרִיחִים אֶת בְּנֵי אָדָם לְהַפְּסִיקְם מַהַצַּדִּיק הַנַּ"ל. וּלְפִי כֹּחַ הַמַּכְרִיחַ, כֵּן מַרְחִיק מֵהַצַּדִּיק כַּנַּ"ל, וְאַחַר־כָּךְ, כְּשֶׁיֵּפְסִיק כֹּחַ הַמַּכְרִיחַ, יַחֲזֹר וְיַמְשִׁיךְ עַצְמוֹ וְיִתְקָרֵב לְהַצַּדִּיק שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת עָפֶר כַּנַּ"ל...

ְּוָה בְּחִינַת מִשְׁכָּן, כִּי מִשְׁכָּן הָיָה לוֹ כֹחַ הַמּוֹשֵׁך, לְהַמְשִׁיךּ אֱלֹקוּת לַמְּקוֹם שֶׁהָיָה עוֹמֵד שָׁם... וְכַמּוּבָא בַּמִּדְרָשׁ (שמות פ' לא), שֶׁהַמִּשְׁכָּן הוּא לְשׁוֹן מַשְׁכּוֹן, שָׁהוּא מֵשְׁכּוֹן לְיִשְׂרָאַל, שֻׁתִּשְׁרָה שְׁכִינָה אֶצְלָם אֲפִלּוּ אִם יֶחָטְאוּ, חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוֹב (ויקרא כו): וְנַתַתִּי מִשְׁכָּנִי בְּתוֹלְכֶם וְלֹא תִגְעַל וַפְשִׁי אֶתְכֶם. נִמְצָא שֻׁעַל־יְדֵי הַמִּשְׁכָּן, הַשְׁכִינָה שׁוֹרָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. הַיְנוּ בַּנַּ"ל, כִּי מִשְׁכָּן לְשׁוֹן מָשְׁכֵנִי וְכוּ', שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ בְּחִינַת כֹּחַ הַמּשְׁכָּן לְהַמְשִׁיךּ אֱלֹקוּת לַמְּקוֹם שֶׁהָיָה עוֹמֵד שָׁם כַּנַּ"ל. וְעַל כֵּן אִי אֶפְשֶׁר לְהָקִים אֶת הַמִּשְׁכָּן, אֶלָּא הַצַּדִּיק שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת עָפָר, בְּחִינַת מֹשֶׁה, שֶׁבָּיִה, נְמִל הָּמָבְים, כְּמוֹ שֶׁבָּדִיק, שְׁהוּא בְּחִינַת כֹּחַ הַמִּשְׁבָּן, לָהַמְשִׁיךְ הַאֱלֹקוּת... בְּחִינַת כֹּחַ הַמִּשְׁבָּן, שָׁהוּא בְּחִינַת כֹּחַ הַמּוֹשֵׁך, לְהַמְשִׁיךְ הַאֱלֹקוּת...

## 5. How did they build it each time afterwards?

- (i) Roger Bannister and the 4-minute mile
- (ii) Once you beat the Sitra Achra the resistance disappears

# 6. Netivot Shalom - try once, and try again!

According to the Midrash, after the first time Moshe built it, the Mishkan was erected and dismantled each day of the Seven Days of Inauguration. According to Rabbi Chanina, it was erected and dismantled three times each day! The Netivot Shalom asks "Why? Why not just get it standing and then leave it that way (at least until the time came to travel)? To teach us that the task of erecting a Mishkan is not something accomplished on one's first try. One gets one's "Mishkan" standing, only to suffer a setback, and have it dismantled. You try again, and again gets it standing, perhaps this time even more firmly than before, yet once again find it taken apart. Part of the difficulty of its construction is in not becoming disheartened at the seemingly endless process of building and destruction implied by this daily cycle of up and down.