

Tell a story
Parsha Vayikra
by Julie Zhuk on 2024-03-23

This week's Parsha is referring to G-d calling to Moses from the Tabernacle. The Rabbi Rashi explains that G-d called out with a loud and booming voice to all the Jews. It was only, Moses who could hear him. In this week's Parsha, there is a Chassidic philosophy that emphasizes G-d calling out to every Jewish person drawing them to be close to Him in spirit of love and awe. There is a small spark of Moses within every Jew. There is a challenge to utilize that this spark and to tune that appropriate spiritual frequency to hear the calling of G-d's calling. Jews can experience G-d's limited shattering spiritual experiences. We learn in the Parsha that one of the prophets named Elijah was able to do this. He realized this, G-d was calling him with a small tiny voice. G-d is doing this with us Jews, using a small tiny voice through the circumstances in our daily lives. If we Jews are not tuned in then we will miss out. Jewish people are created in the image of G-d. We are given individual potential with as many capacities as we can come up with. The ultimate goal for the human being is to build and maintain a strong relationship with G-d. There will always be stumbling blocks for humans to overcome as they try to build that relationship with G-d. While the person is doing this they have their spiritual journeys to overcome. There was a story from Chabad.Org that I found really interesting. I don't take credit from this story.

The Story is about two men who were serving time in the Soviet Gulag. Before being caught and taken away they were well-known doctors and now were forced laborers. One started to call out to the other in a despaired voice, "In Moscow, we were well respected and admired, but here we are known as nothing. How can you still be feeling good about yourself? Why haven't you been broken by everything that has happened so far?" To this, the other man replied, "Wherever I am, regardless of what has happened, I see myself in the same way. I always aim for the same goal, to have a strong relationship with G-d and serve Him with all that I do. In Moscow, I served Him as a physician. Here, in the Gulag, I am still serving Him, as a laborer. Our relationship has not changed. It is just as strong. The last thing this man said to the other man was, "The difference between you and me is, that you still view your worth only as a doctor." The point this man was making is that many people think that their identity only comes from what they do. If they think this way they are living an illusion. When people can't do what defined them once, then they are facing an illusion. No one should ever feel like a "nothing." There is always room for being spiritual and growing in that way. Be proud to serve G-d no matter the circumstances, this means you will bestow one with dignity. The people who choose to retire from their jobs, don't ever retire from the spiritual connection that they have.