

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT KI TISA

1-2 MARCH | 21 ADAR I

Benefit of the Doubt



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Imagine waiting 40 days for Moshe (Moses) – the man who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt - and getting so impatient you try to replace him! Something I find particularly interesting is the idea that the Golden Calf wasn't built to replace God but instead to replace Moshe, as the Jewish people were unsure whether he was going to return. Surely you would give the man who freed you and had been guiding you in the desert the benefit of the doubt and wouldn't try to immediately

replace him when he didn't come down Mount Sinai when you were expecting him to!

To be a strong people you need a strong leader. Moshe, a GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) leader, had the opportunity to ascend the highest of heights on Mount Sinai, speaking to God Himself. However, his people didn't give him the benefit of the doubt and miscounted the time he was away. They were so desperate for their leader that they looked for an alternative, the Golden Calf. Because of the failure of his people, Moshe had to descend from Mount Sinai and see for himself what 'his' people were doing. What he found was one of the worst sins ever to be committed by the Jewish people.

Rashi (1040-1105) shares an idea in his commentary on this parasha and I think we can connect to it on many levels. The first being that with power comes responsibility. Moshe descended the mountain carrying the original tablets, and smashed them in anger as he realised his people were not ready for them. And the second being that a leader is only as effective as their followers - if either side is doing something wrong, they are letting the other down, causing an imbalance.

This parasha contains one of our lowest of lows as a people, but as we continue the story and our journey, both then, and now, we work on being better, more patient and more tolerant people. This isn't a trickle-down policy but one we should all be working on together, collaboratively, at the same time.

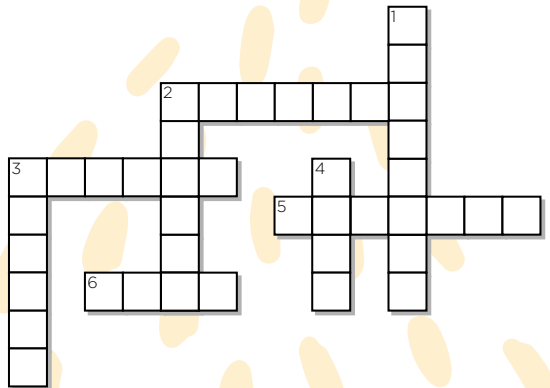
Ki Tisa Crossword

Across

2. God repeats the mitzvah to observe _____
3. God instructs Moshe to make a washbasin made of _____
5. Moshe is given two stone _____ by God
6. When Moshe doesn't descend the mountain, the Jews build a Golden _____

Down

1. God designates _____ to supervise the construction of the Mishkan
2. Each person was to give half a silver _____ towards the Mishkan
3. God commands Moshe to take a _____ of the population
4. When Moshe descends the mountain, his face shines so brightly he must wear a _____



Answers

Across: 2.Shabbat 3.Copper 5.Tablets 6.Calf
Down: 1.Beitzel 2.Shekel 3.Census 4.Mask