

The Fifth Commandment



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DIAMANT**

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In Parashat Yitro, we are given the 10 Commandments as a Jewish people, all together at Mount Sinai. A question that is often asked is as follows: the first five commandments are between us and God and the second five are to do with our interactions with other people. Why would the fifth commandment, which is the commandment of honouring

one's parents, be located in the first set of five? Seemingly, this commandment, since it is to do with our relationships with other people, should not be in the first five, where the consistent theme is our relationship with God. Our Rabbis say that God likes to be present in a house where parents are honoured and, on the other hand, God does not wish to be present in a house where parents are not honoured.

For those of us fortunate enough to have parents, it is important to recognise that they have played a huge role in our lives from the very beginning. Obviously, God also played an essential role in our creation, but if we don't also give thanks to our parents for everything they have done for us, it is somewhat like a whole football team working together

to win a match and the fans not recognising the importance of the central midfielder's passes that set up all the different and intricate goals. If the fans did this, it is likely that the whole team would take offence. Since God worked with our parents to create us, we must recognise and honour all three of them as partners in our creation. Since our parents are two of the partners, this takes them out of the classification of just 'other people' and puts them in a place where they are to be given even more honour and respect. All in all, it is important that we always remain humble and appreciate that God and our parents brought us into this world, and we must never forget this. Just remember to always say thank you and be appreciative of your parents.

Spot the difference!

Moshe had to present the tablets to the Jewish people twice. Can you spot the 10 differences between the 2 pictures?

