



# THE TRIBE SCRIBE

PINCHAS: LEADING THE WAY!

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IN THIS WEEK'S PARASHA WE READ ABOUT LEADERSHIP.

TRUE LEADERSHIP PUTS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY FIRST. **GOLDA MEIR** (ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER 1969-1974) SHOWS US AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THIS\*



\*As told by Yehuda Avner in "The Prime Ministers"

**Yom Kippur War 1973.**  
Prime Minister **Golda Meir** visiting troops at the front line in the Golan Heights.



GOLDA, WHY ARE WE DOING ALL THIS? WHAT'S THE USE OF ALL OUR SACRIFICES IF WE CAN'T ACHIEVE PEACE?



I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT THINKING ABOUT THIS.

IF OUR SACRIFICES WERE FOR US ALONE, I AM NOT SURE IT WOULD BE WORTH IT. BUT IF OUR SACRIFICES ARE FOR THE WHOLE JEWISH PEOPLE, THEN I BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT ANY PRICE IS WORTHWHILE.

Let me tell you a story. In 1948 I arrived as the first Israeli ambassador to the **Soviet Union**. There Zionism was a crime. Jews had been cut off from their fellow Jews for 30 years. Torah study was banned.

The first Shabbat I came to the **Moscow Great Synagogue**, it was practically empty. But news travels fast... The second week the street in front of the synagogue was jam-packed.



Close to 50,000 people were waiting for us - old people and teenagers, babies in parents' arms, even men in officer uniform of the Red Army. Despite all the risks, they came to demonstrate their kinship.

Inside the synagogue the demonstration was the same. Without speeches or parades, the people were showing their love for Israel and the Jewish people and I was their symbol. I prayed together with them.

PEOPLE SURROUNDED ME AND CRIED IN YIDDISH: 'WELCOME GOLDA!' 'LONG LIFE TO YOU GOLDA!' 'GOOD YOM TOV GOLDA!' ALL I COULD SAY TO THEM WAS: 'THANK YOU FOR REMAINING JEWS!' THEY RESPONDED: 'WE THANK THE STATE OF ISRAEL.'



I was caught up in a torrent of love so strong it literally took my breath away.

AND THAT WAS WHEN I KNEW FOR SURE THAT OUR SACRIFICES WERE NOT IN VAIN.



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Tribe is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.