

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT CHUKAT

8-9 JULY | 10 TAMMUZ

Sticks and Stones



**RABBI
MOSHE CHAIM
LISTER**

Youth and Outreach
Rabbi @ Bushey
United Synagogue

A teacher in school once turned to a friend of mine and said: "Don't take it personally, but I hate you". Suffice it to say, this teacher wasn't all that loved! But perhaps we can all remember times when we've snapped, when we've said harsh things to people, some of whom might even have deserved it.

But credit where credit's due: Moshe has been doing a good job at keeping his cool. It hasn't been an

easy forty years for the leader of the Jewish nation (there were even those who complained when the sea split that the ground was muddy.)

This week though, it's different.

With the death of Miriam, the well of water that miraculously travelled with the Jewish nation ceased to be, and the Jewish people, yet again, complain. This time, it seems Moshe has had enough. "*Shimu na ha'morim*" - "*Listen you rebels!*" (Be-midbar 20:10) Moshe shouts. But this is more than just an irritated teacher barking at his class - this is one of the greatest men who ever lived, and we cannot take this at surface level.

Fascinatingly, the word "*morim*", as

well as 'rebels', also means 'teachers' or 'leaders'. Moshe remonstrates with the Jewish nation not by just insulting them, but by reminding them of their own immense potential. Sewn into this rebuke is the message that you are leaders and teachers - you can be so much more than this. What a powerful lesson.

Let us not insult the people who wrong us, or who need guidance. Let us have the maturity and depth to see the potential within them, and if they fall short of their own amazing abilities, don't tell them what a failure they are now, instead remind them of how great they could be.

Chukat

F	F	A	T	S	T	I	P	L	A	G	U	E	K
E	E	M	E	H	S	O	M	S	P	R	I	N	D
P	R	C	A	O	S	H	E	W	R	N	L	C	U
E	E	D	M	C	S	N	A	K	E	G	M	S	W
M	T	E	D	N	C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	M
E	A	S	N	N	O	I	K	S	T	E	A	O	A
F	W	E	I	A	R	L	M	A	R	N	D	D	E
P	M	R	C	E	T	N	A	I	I	H	S	R	I
L	R	T	D	W	A	M	R	F	R	S	R	H	E
A	E	C	R	L	M	M	A	A	T	I	C	C	M
A	O	W	W	R	T	K	E	T	N	C	A	F	I
W	W	S	W	N	O	M	R	K	E	I	O	M	R
I	K	S	O	A	F	C	S	D	C	R	N	A	P
A	O	R	R	R	K	M	K	O	M	E	A	A	E

DESERT
STAFF
WATER
RED COW
PLAGUE
MIRIAM
SNAKE
ROCK
COMPLAIN
MOSHE

