

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT BEMIDBAR • 3-4 JUNE • 5 SIVAN | SHAVUOT • 4-6 JUNE • 6-7 SIVAN

Your unique place within the Jewish people



BATSHEVA WOLF

Tribe Secondary & Youth Education Manager

In this week's parasha we read about the travels of the Jewish people. Whenever the Jewish people camped and travelled in the desert, the tribes were always positioned in a particular formation. But why is this formation so important? Aren't we all one nation, why does it matter where exactly we stand?

The reason for this is to remind us that the twelve tribes all had different characteristics, and each contributed to the Jewish nation in their own way. For example, Yehuda,

the largest and strongest tribe that was destined for leadership and monarchy, was the first in the formation. That was no coincidence.

You are one of a kind - use it!

We each have our own specific set of talents, personalities and histories, with which we can achieve things that no one else can. God made each of us different. Exploring and expressing who we are as individuals is part of what God wants from us. This discovery is one of the most empowering and freeing experiences.

Rabbi Zusha, a well-known 18th century Chassidic Rabbi, used to say: "In the next world, I won't be asked

'Why weren't you like Moshe (Moses)'. I will be asked 'Why weren't you like Zusha?'". Being ourselves and optimising our own potential is what matters.

The question that follows is, how can what we are benefit the wider community? We try to balance the individual and collective components of our natures. We discover what we are capable of and then find a way to utilise it for the greater good. The Torah acknowledges that by showing us that we all have our specific, individual place whilst being part of the larger Jewish nation, similar to the Jews in the desert.

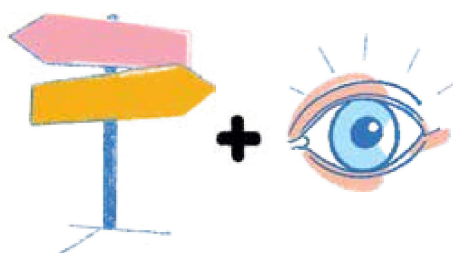
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Tribe Dingbats

Can you work out the Shavuot themed words or phrases from these clues?



1.



2.



3.