

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT SHELACH

24-25 JUNE | 26 SIVAN

The Fear of Success



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MARCUS**

Youth Director
@ Barnet Synagogue

If I was to mention the Exodus from Egypt, you might envisage the splitting of the sea. And if I say Adam and Eve, you probably just imagined an apple tree. The twelve spies? It is not such an obvious one, but perhaps you thought of giants and massive clusters of grapes.

In this week's parasha, twelve spies are sent to scout out the Land of Israel and report back to the Jewish people. For some reason, ten

of them come back and lie about the land, delivering a negative report, whilst the other two tell the truth. But why would they lie?

These ten spies were not just a random group of people. They were "men who were heads of the people of Israel" (Bemidbar 13:3). They were the leaders.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l explains why they lied: "The spies were not afraid of failure; they were afraid of success" (*Studies in Spirituality*, p.194). Before the spies were sent, the situation of the Jewish people was pretty good. They ate Manna from heaven, drank water from a miraculous well, were

surrounded by the Clouds of Glory and were in constant contact with God. However, when they entered the land, they would have to fight battles, create an economy, farm the land and worry about there being enough rain. They would have to face reality.

Now we can understand why they were reluctant to tell the truth. These ten spies wanted to be close to God in the comfort of the desert, rather than building up a land. However, they misunderstood the task. It wasn't about being comfortable with the status quo, it was about breaking boundaries and creating new opportunities in the Land of Israel.

Wordsearch

For before or after Shabbat

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R	T	V	T	P	L	P	V	S	B	I	G	E	I
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