



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

MATOT - MASEI: FROM SAMURAI TO SINAI!

THE SECOND OF THIS WEEK'S TWO PARASHOT, MASEI, LISTS THE JOURNEYS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE DESERT. CHECK OUT THIS AWESOME JOURNEY THAT LED MOSHE CHAIM SHINOHARA FROM A JAPANESE SAMURAI FAMILY TO JUDAISM!



I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT SAMURAI MEANT 'WARRIOR WITH A SWORD'. BUT IT TURNS OUT SAMURAI IS FROM THE JAPANESE WORD 'TO SERVE', BECAUSE A SAMURAI'S JOB IS NOT JUST TO THINK ABOUT THEMSELVES, BUT TO SERVE OTHERS AND LIVE FOR SOMETHING BIGGER.

HIROMICHI, YOUR NAME MEANS 'THE RIGHT PATH'. OUR SAMURAI HERITAGE TEACHES THAT STRENGTH IS NOT JUST BRAVERY. IT IS HONOUR, DISCIPLINE, DUTY AND COURAGE. IT MEANS BEING HONEST, HUMBLE AND CLEAR-THINKING - AND DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, EVEN WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT.



I FEEL DIFFERENT. NO ONE LIVES WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS! IN MY FAMILY, TRADITION REALLY MATTERS. LOTS OF MY FRIENDS DON'T CARE ABOUT THE OLD WAYS, BUT I KNOW THOSE SAMURAI VALUES ARE IMPORTANT.

1998, University in California, USA.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LIFE? MONEY? FAME? FANCY TITLES? OR IS LIFE REALLY ABOUT PURPOSE AND CHARACTER?



HEY, THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE THE BIG QUESTIONS MY FAMILY IN JAPAN CARE ABOUT!

AND NOW WE'LL EAT APPLE IN HONEY AND ASK GOD FOR A SWEET NEW YEAR!

EVERYONE IS SO WARM AND KIND. EVEN THE MEAL FEELS SO FULL OF MEANING. I MUST FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS!



DAD, I'VE FOUND SOMETHING AMAZING. THE SAMURAI VALUES I GREW UP WITH: TRADITION, PURPOSE, RESPECT, KINDNESS, DOING THE RIGHT THING - I'VE FOUND THEM ALIVE IN JUDAISM!



SON, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JOURNEY WORTH TAKING.



HIROMICHI'S JEWISH JOURNEY CONTINUED. LIKE THE JOURNEYS IN PARASHAT MASEI, MOSHE CHAIM'S JOURNEY HAD MANY STEPS. SLOWLY HE STARTED LEARNING ABOUT JUDAISM, KEEPING KOSHER, GOING TO SHUL, LEARNING TO READ HEBREW AND PREPARING FOR CONVERSION TO JUDAISM.

TODAY I GO BY MY JEWISH NAME, MOSHE CHAIM. I HAVE A JEWISH FAMILY HERE IN AMERICA, AND MY JAPANESE SAMURAI FAMILY ARE PROUD THAT I AM CONTINUING THE VALUES OF OUR HERITAGE THROUGH MY JEWISH LIFE. EVERY JOURNEY HAS STOPS, STARTS AND SURPRISES. KEEP WALKING THE RIGHT PATH, ONE STEP AT A TIME.



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