

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT MATOT-MASEI

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## LET'S MAKE A DEAL



BY: **YONI  
NEMKO**

Tribe Gap year  
student

The Jewish people have reached a critical moment. Now that the wandering in the desert is nearly over, the nation is preparing to finally enter the land together, fight together, and build a successful Jewish future together.

But two tribes have other plans: "Let this land be given to your servants [the tribes of Reuven and Gad] as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan [into Israel]."

Moshe (Moses) spots the danger straight away - how could these two tribes abandon their

responsibility in fighting and contributing to build up the land of Israel? As Moshe responds: "Are you going to sit here while your brothers go and fight?"

Despite the tense situation, Moshe teaches us a clear and simple lesson in negotiation. Rabbi Sacks zt"l explains that the first step Moshe takes is to *separate the people from the problem*. Moshe assures the Reubenites and Gadites that it is nothing personal. Moshe simply recognised the disastrous historical precedent of putting one's own interest above that of the nation, namely the incident of the spies, and is unwilling to take the risk that something similar could happen again.

Moshe is able to achieve a compromise with the tribes. He

teaches us the principle of *zeh neheneh, vezeh neheneh*, you benefit and I'll benefit. We will work together to help each other with our respective aims.

This is exactly what happens - Moshe allows the tribes to create a temporary outpost for their cattle and families. In exchange, the Reubenites and Gadites not only fight in the army, but become the advance guard, an even more demanding military role.

So from this *parasha* we learn the importance of playing our part in serving the community and not just doing what's best for ourselves. Only through compromise and striving to genuinely help each other as much as we can to achieve mutually beneficial solutions can we move forward when we disagree.

## Parasha Word Scramble!

Unjumble the letters to uncover words connected to the *parasha*.

1. MISEPCOMRO
2. SERIAL
3. BISTER
4. HOMES
5. WARDENING
6. RESTED

