

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT PINCHAS

3-4 JULY | 19 TAMUZ

PARASHAT PINCHAS



BY: **BEN ROSS**

Tribe gap year student

In this week's *parasha*, we see, mixed into the busy narrative, the transfer of leadership from Moshe (Moses) to Yehoshua (Joshua). Moshe knows he's reaching the end of his life, so he pleads with God to appoint a leader, "so that the congregation of God shall not be like sheep that have no shepherd." But why does he need to use this metaphor? Why doesn't he just ask Him to appoint a leader for the Jewish people? The *Ktav Sofer* (1815-1871) explains a beautiful idea, expressed through this language of sheep. Sheep, as

the Torah demonstrates elsewhere, reach their maximum intellectual maturity at a young age. The entire flock is on the same intellectual level, each happy where they are. Moshe begs God to appoint Yehoshua as a leader to act like a "shepherd", separate to the flock, to serve as an example - to be someone who isn't content to stay where he is religiously, but rather someone who is eager to grow.

Straight after this dialogue, the Torah chooses to teach us about the *Korban Tamid*, the "continuous" offering, that was offered twice a day, every day - no matter what. Perhaps this placement is teaching us that we must *always* keep growing, no matter how monotonous things may get. Even if we're doing the same routine day in, day out,

even if we're bringing the same *korbanot*, that's no excuse not to strive to grow and raise the bar in how we go about doing it.

Yehoshua, the Talmud teaches, had a face that was "like the moon". What does this mean? Literally, the word "פנים" - *panim* "face", comes from the root "פנה" - *panah*, to turn, to face. Perhaps the Talmud is expressing this very idea; the way Yehoshua approached life was like that of the moon. The moon, throughout the lunar cycle, is always moving - it grows and grows and then, despite getting smaller, returns to grow again. Yehoshua teaches us to always strive to grow to our maximum potential. Even if there are bumps and setbacks along the way, even if life seems repetitive, we have to push ourselves to keep growing!

Parasha Word Scramble!

Unjumble the letters to uncover words or phrases connected to the *parasha*

1. SAPHNIC
2. DAFLOCHZET
3. AHUYESOH
4. RFOFERING
5. LAMOSHBRIT

BONUS: Which of these words refers to a reward?