

## Parshas Vaeschanan

### A True Mesorah

In *Parshas Vaeschanan*, the Torah recounts *Moshe Rabbeinu's* charge to *Klal Yisroel*. Moshe warns them to learn and to keep the *mitzvos* of the Torah, because, through that, everyone will come to recognize the true greatness of the Chosen Nation. Then the *passuk* says: "...Beware for your soul, lest you forget the things that your eyes beheld...and make them known to your children – the day that you stood before Hashem your God..."

The *Ramban* interprets the *pessukim* to be giving a twofold command: A *לא תשנה* that *Klal Yisroel* should be very careful not to forget where they got all of the *mitzvos*; to constantly keep in the forefront of their minds the vivid scene of *Ma'amad Har Sinai* and all of the wondrous miracles that they witnessed during its occurrence. Secondly, a *ועצות עשה*; that this account should be transmitted from generation to generation.

He then explains that, had Hashem given the Torah to *Moshe Rabbeinu* alone (rather than to all of *Klal Yisroel*), the authenticity of the Torah could be challenged. If some other "prophet" would come along and question the Torah, he could raise doubt in the minds of *Klal Yisroel* as to its authenticity.

However, says the *Ramban*, now that *Klal Yisroel* saw the giving of the Torah with their own eyes and heard it with their own ears, they themselves can verify that anyone who tries to speak against the Torah is an imposter. Additionally, when *Klal Yisroel* will pass stories of this experience to future generations, those generations too will have the power to ward off any attacks on the Torah. They will feel as if they themselves experienced *Ma'amad Har Sinai*, because they know that a father doesn't lie to his child.

Upon analyzing this *Ramban*, one gains insight into the strength that *Klal Yisroel* possess. When one contemplates who the *Dor De'ahwas*, one realizes that they were men of elevated stature who witnessed with their own eyes the ten *makkos* and splitting of the Yam Suf. They had the privilege to be guided by *Moshe Rabbeinu* – the greatest *Navi* of all time – whose powers of influence are too great to fathom. Yet, without having received the Torah directly from Hashem, they would not have been equipped with a strong enough foundation of *emunah* in the integrity of the Torah so as not to be swayed by false prophets. However, the future generations, regardless of how distanced they are by time, are endowed through *Ma'amad Har Sinai* with the fortitude to withstand that type of influence.

A common perception of our generation is that we have limited capacity. We are living in a world without *neviim* or *ruach hakodesh*, where we don't see open miracles or even have the leaders of yesteryear to help us to reach spiritual heights. We are surrounded by a society lacking morals, where right and wrong are treated as equals. But the *Ramban* teaches us how incorrect of an assessment this truly is. The capacity that we have needs only to be tapped into. If we focus on the fact that we have a link – from generation to generation – all the way back to the giving of the Torah at *Har Sinai*, we can have the same strength of *emunah* as if we were there. The separation of over 3,300 years is irrelevant, because of the strength of our *mesorah*.

May we be zoche to bring out our *kochos* of *emunah* and use them to strengthen and rededicate ourselves with an even stronger commitment to the Torah we know to be true.

*Sefer Aliyos Refoel Zev, organized liluy nishmas R' Refoel Zev Chait A"H, is a compilation of Mussar Shmuessin originated, developed and written by talmidim of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim of Queens. This submission was written by Rabbi Ari Wender and edited by ARZ staff. Feedback and constructive comments are welcome at [arzontheparsha@gmail.com](mailto:arzontheparsha@gmail.com) Thank you to the many individuals who have helped with the forthcoming sefer.*