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# A Taste of Torah

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## פרשת בשלח תשפ"ב

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After 210 years of brutal slavery in Mitzrayim, the Jewish people are traveling to freedom, and to their destiny in Eretz Yisroel. However six days out they found themselves in a terrifying situation. They are trapped between the Yam Suf in front of them, and the significant remnant of the Egyptian army right behind them trying to wipe them out. There were various responses amongst different segments of Klal Yisroel. Some wanted to fight, some wanted to turn back to Egypt, some didn't want to be rescued they had a complete collapse and gave up hope, and some turned to Hashem, beseeching Him to save them. In Perek ד"ו Posuk ט"ו, Hashem responds to the last group and says to Moshe, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Jewish people to go forward and travel into the sea." The Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh is puzzled and asks, who else are they supposed to cry out to?!? What else does a Jew do in times of distress if not cry out to Hashem?!? Hashem's statement, why are you davening, is baffling.

He answers by quoting a Zohar. The Zohar states that this was a very dangerous time for the Jewish people. They were facing a great and potentially harsh judgment. The prosecuting angels correctly claimed that not only were the Egyptians idol worshippers, but the Jewish people were as well. In fact as bizarre as it might seem, some of the Jewish people actually brought idols with them as they crossed the Yam Suf! Therefore, the claim that the Jews should be severely punished was not so wrong. Hashem told Moshe, that even though He wants to perform a miracle, and deal with the Jews with the midda of Rachamim, the Jews did not have a merit. So Hashem said to Moshe it is not the time to daven!! They need to earn this great miracle!! How will they earn the merit of this miracle? By traveling into the sea! That action will exhibit their great Emunah and Bitachon, their great faith and trust in Hashem that He will save them, and in that merit they will deserve salvation.

How powerful is Emunah and Bitachon! Here you had the people who legitimately were in great danger, who had idol worshippers among them, Hashem's hands were tied so to speak. What was the merit that pulled them from the brink of destruction? It was their faith and trust in Hashem, that He can and will save them! We see from here no matter where we are holding spiritually, if we develop our belief and trust in Hashem that he can and will take care of us, that can be the greatest impetus to our salvation! This is something we must work hard on to inculcate in ourselves, and especially into our children. This relationship with Hashem and understanding the power of our Emunah and Bitachon in Him, is the greatest gift we can give our children to help them lead successful, happy, Torah true lives.

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