

Shavuot 5781

6-7 Sivan 5781

May 17-18, 2021

Shavuot is the holiday that represents the official marriage of the Jewish nation to Hashem through the Torah as a marriage contract. Prior to the Torah being revealed to the world, the Torah was the engagement document, the world was preparing to receive the Torah in a revealed and practical fashion.

Although Chassidus explains that Alpayim Shana Kadman Torah L'Olam means that the Torah is sourced in a loftier level than the manifestation of the world, in the essence of Hashem, from the level of Chochma. And this means, that when one learns Torah, they connected to the essence of Hashem on a level of Chochma and more.

If one retranslates the expression, as an additional explanation, one can say that the Torah existed in the world for approximately 2000 years before it was revealed to the "olam" as a revealed tool. Prior to Matan Torah the forefathers practiced the Torah, on unique level. The Gemara in multiple places explains that it was beyond the 7 Noahide laws, that in fact the forefathers studied (and in some way practiced) all the mitzvos.

At the point of creation, Adam and all those subsequently birthed from Adam had been exposed to Hashem's greatness. As they were recent creations. The knowledge of creation, which is modeled from the Torah, was exposed to these people. Then, as time went on the revelation, and knowledge waxed and waned. Avraham instated the knowledge of Torah (some credit Avraham with writing Sefer Yetzira- Sefer HaRokeach), that is monotheism once again, en masse. Whereas Shem and Ever who lived and established an academy of "Torah" taught how to connect to Hashem. Further, Yakov learned in the Academy of Shem and Ever, and Rashi quotes multiple times in Bereishis the academy being an important part of the forefathers learning.

There are multiple sources for pre-Sinai references to Torah being apart of our lineage. This incredibly important because we see the eternality of Torah in our physical existence. We know that the Torah is eternal on a spiritual level, but even since the beginning of creation the Torah has been a part of the lives of our pre-Sinai lineage. This substantiates that

which is important to realize that the Torah is the key and the gateway for bringing Mashiach. Since it has always been here, its tenets are true, and it is true.

Perhaps one can think that the Angel's argument with Moshe about the giving of the Torah, wasn't so much that it was being removed from the heavens, rather, it required the mass physical enacting of its laws, in a way that prior to the receiving the Torah existed in "potential" format for the world, and in angelic form by the forefathers who studied and lived by its ways.

The Torah has told us what will happen since the beginning of all things. That is Mashiach will arrive, whether early or later than expected. That means that our mission is to live by the tenets of its faith and harness the power of the Torah to imbue it in our lives in a real and meaningful way, and through this achieve clarity of the reality of the world.

I recently was thinking about what makes the Lubavitcher Rebbe 'great'. Not only a scholar, but a leader, and a beacon of hope, even since his physical presence is no longer with us. That was because the Rebbe was staunchly, and entirely influenced, and lived by Torah, in a way that his entire existence and ego was devoid of anything but Torah. Therefore, how things manifested when he spoke, or advised people was that he was speaking truth from the Torah. And therefore, the Rebbe as a leader wasn't "anti-anything" as it were. He wasn't an "us and them" type of leader, where he would (except by example on a few occasions) state we don't do like XYZ people (especially of other Jews).

This is important to me, because it offers a sense of clarity in the craziness of the world. Jews are always targeted, there is no road map of how to live, what to do, how to navigate life when things seem uncertain, or out of our control. Then there is Torah. It has always been here, it has always shined through the darkness, no matter how bad things got. No matter how heinous the acts, or difficult things are to grapple. The Torah has remained. And along with the Torah, adherents to its ways, through thick and thin. Yisroel Orais V'kudsha Brich Hu Kula Chad. The Jews, and Hashem and the Torah are all one.

May we find time to learn Torah, and be influenced by its ways, in however a positive way, so we can usher Mashiach speedily in our days.

Good Yom Tov.