

Parshas Yisro

Morality is out the door in the current world. As such, society is in a spiral of pushing the limits of morality based on “logic” and do-good but wreaking havoc in the interim. The basis for this moral sinking ship is that when Hashem created the world, the metaphysical filtration system that allows for G0d’s infinite light to be housed in the physical realm is so distanced from its source, that it can deviate so strongly from a path of righteousness and goodness. Moreso, the physical realm is animalistic, which means whatever goes-goes unless, using our cognitive faculties, we rise above the animal and follow a system bound by morality, righteousness, and goodness.

From the moment of creation until the giving of the Torah, human morality was dictated by their ability to process the world around them in a way that seemed best to rise above and succeed, as science would put it, the survival of the fittest. Yet, the Torah describes confident leaders and families, though descended from Adam, who was implicitly imbued with the idea of Hashem, who deviated into the physical realm and ultimately followed the rules of the physical realm (such as Nimrod, Esav, Yishmael).

The world before Matan Torah grew based on “survival of the fittest.” Yet, throughout the initial epoch from creation until Matan Torah, there were pockets of individuals who, despite how the world worked around them, were bound by the moral code of Hashem (and through that, the Torah); these were our fore-fathers Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov.

Then Matan Torah happened, and Hashem, for a moment, merged and exposed the infinite spirituality in all things physical in a way that would allow us to perform Mitzvos. Furthermore, the Torah gave us the path to complete morality that will enable us, our Nation, the Jews, to have the methods by which we can navigate our time on this physical plane.

How different are you from the rest of the world? When Egypt was chasing the Jews, they were of one heart and one man, whereas the Jews, when they received the Torah, were one man and one heart. The difference is that we had the power to merge the man (the physical) first and be singularly accepting of the Torah, which penetrates our hearts and allows us to conquer the physical realm. Meanwhile, the rest of the world was united from their physical heart, i.e., a place of emotion and illogic, and then united to act heinously. Our balance because of the Torah and Hashem could merge the physical “man” with the feelings of our heart in balance, a much more significant achievement. And it is through the Torah and mitzvot in the physical realm, we can enlighten the world of its darkness and bring Mashiach, specifically because Hashem gave us that power with the Torah.