

Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesach

Bonnie Wilder

Shabbat Shalom,

My Torah portion comes from *Parshat Ki Tissa*. I am reading this shortened portion because it is the Shabbat during Passover. One of the ideas in this part of the story is to pray *only* to G-d. Moses went up Mt. Sinai to get the 10 commandments from G-d. He said that it would take him 40 days and 40 nights. The people waited all but 12 hours for Moses to come down the mountain. They became impatient and didn't believe that he would ever come down. Therefore, they had Aaron make an idol for them to worship. They collected gold, created a golden calf, and prayed to it, calling it "G-d." Moses appeared 12 hours later, right on time, and became furious. The moral is to have and use patience, and all will work out.

The Israelites were really lucky with G-d's patience, because G-d waited a while to do something to them. The reason was because Moses came down the mountain and saw what happened, and he told G-d that they shouldn't be killed, because Moses understood and forgave the Israelites. Moses then convinced G-d not to kill the Israelites, and after a while, G-d agreed. That's why it was very important for Moses to be patient and to talk G-d into forgiving the Israelites.

I can relate to being impatient. My brother is an expert at trying my patience. He uses my things without asking. He is loud sometimes and distracts me. I then get loud back and then I am the one who gets into trouble. So, I have to work on being patient and understand that he is younger and he needs to grow up. Another example of patience is

about my love of basketball. I want to be really good, so I need to be patient and practice for a lot of years. I see that patience pays off when things fall into place, in this case, *the basket!!* An example is when my 3-point shot suddenly gets better after I practice it repetitively.

Patience is also a big part of my mitzvah project. I went to the Hebrew home and helped the elderly people with praying and helping them stay on task. Since they are older, they aren't quite as fast with doing things as when they were younger. So, I had to be patient and wait for them to first sit down. Then, I needed to get them involved with the congregation and make sure that they were paying attention. *That* takes a lot of patience. This relates to my Torah portion because the Israelites had to be patient, while waiting for Moses to come down the mountain, and I had to be patient with the elderly people at the Hebrew home to get them all ready so that they could pray. Patience, therefore, is *truly* a virtue. It not only has been extremely useful in the past, but is important for the present and critical for the future.

I would like to thank Ms. Fox for helping me write this Dvar Torah, and also Rabbi Small for teaching me and celebrating this special day with me. I would like to thank my family for being there when I need help, and for also treating me well. I would like to thank my uncles, grandma, and grandpa for making the trip to celebrate with me, as well as all of my friends for supporting me today. Finally, thank you to all of my Hebrew School teachers for teaching me over the years, and also Ms. Rhonda Holtman for doing a fabulous job helping me learn the Hebrew words and melodies for today. Thank you ALL for supporting me on this very special day.

My torah portion is on page 523 in the *Etz Chaymin Chumash*.