

ONE POINT

from

לקוטי שיחות חלק טז, שיחה ג לפרשת תשא

~ In memory of Rebbetzin Chave Hecht ז"ל אלימלך ז"ל ~

Use these words to fill in the blanks:*** jealous * strong * wise * יציאת מצרים *****IN THE PARSHA:**

After the חטא העגל, Hashem's told משה רבנו that He was so angry, He wanted to immediately destroy the entire Jewish people.

משה responded: ה', יְחַרְהָ אֶפְדָּ בְעַמֶּךָ - Hashem, why should you be so angry at your people?

רש"י explains that משה רבנו was not saying that the people who sinned shouldn't be punished.

Rather, משה was saying that ד' shouldn't immediately destroy the entire Jewish people out of anger at the עבודה זרה itself.

משה said that a חכם, a _____ person, is only jealous of another חכם, and a גבור, _____ person, is only jealous of another גבור.

Since the עגל הזהב is neither wise nor strong, Hashem should not be "_____ " that people worshipped it.

QUESTION:

זרה does not have **any** powers or qualities.

Why did משה specifically say that Hashem is **wise** and **strong**, and the עגל is not?

ANSWER:

One of the things that angered ד' so much about the עגל was the ערב רב saying "these are your gods who brought you up from מצרים", when, of course, ד' had taken them out of מצרים.

_____ involved Hashem's "wisdom" and "strength".

- **Wisdom** – to know **how** to do it.
- **Strength** – to actually be **able** to do it.

Since ד' was angry that they said that the עגל had taken them out of מצרים, which required specifically wisdom and strength, משה said ד' shouldn't be jealous and angry, since, in fact, the עגל had neither of those qualities.

Further discussion:

- While this explains why Hashem should not be "jealous" of the עגל itself, how does this explain why Hashem should not be angry at the **people** who **worshipped** the עגל?
(See שיחה ג in the אות ז)