

Torah's Neighbor

When Moshe ascended on High,
To receive the Torah on Har Sinai,
The Gemorah says that the angels did question,
Why is there a human in heaven?

"Moshe has come to receive the Torah," was Hashem's reply,
The angels protested and wanted the Torah to stay in the sky.
"To one who is of flesh and blood you desire,
To give your most precious hidden treasure?"

Hashem told Moshe to give the angels an answer right away,
Moshe said, "What does the Torah say?
I am Hashem your Hashem who took you out of Egyptian slavery,
Did you suffer for years under Egyptian tyranny?"

Do not have any other gods, is also written,
Do you dwell among an idol worshiping nation?"
About the rest of the ten commandments he asked similar questions,
"Do you labor, have parents, have jealousy or evil inclinations?"

The Gemorah concludes that the angels gave in immediately,
They agreed that the Torah belongs to the Yidden on earth legally.
The legal basis that they had originally,
Was that to purchase land a neighbor gets the first opportunity.

A Bar Metzra is the term that refers to the neighbor,
Who gets first rights to purchase a field from the owner,
There is an advantage for a farmer to have all his fields together,
Acting this way, in Hashem's eyes, is good and proper.

Since up to that time, on high the Torah was hidden,
And the angels also reside in heaven,
They felt that the Torah should stay in their possession,
"Place your glory upon the Heavens" they did petition.

Many answers the commentators present,
In order to refute the angels' argument.

1. Only to **real estate** does the law of Bar Metzra apply,
And Torah is not real estate that one can buy.

2. Only to property that is **sold** does the law of Bar Metzra pertain,
But Torah is a **gift** that the Jewish people did obtain.

3. To the law of Bar Metzra relatives and children are not bound,
We are Hashem's **children** on this earthly ground.

4. Moshe Rabeinu was a man of G-d we know,
He was a man, from the middle of his torso and below,
But in the Bar Metzra category he is also considered to be,
Because from the middle of his torso and above **he was G-dly**.

5. Since Moshe was a judge that is true,
He was considered to be a **partner** with Hakadosh Baruch Hu.
Halacha says that if a purchaser is a partners of the seller,
Then the law of Bar Metzra doesn't apply either.

On answers 4 & 5 we question, we're not always like partners so holy,
And Moshe received the Torah on behalf of you and me.
In truth, a Bar Metzra every Jew is considered to be,
Because our souls were all "hewn from beneath the throne of Glory."

The Yidden received the Torah,
 After they had accepted the laws of Shabbos at Marah.
 And whoever believes that Hashem rested on day seven,
 Our sages say, he is considered to be a partner in creation.

With the angels none of these answers Moshe did share,
 In fact, the last 3 answers portray how Hashem and the Yidden are near,
 But in the Talmud the opposite is stated,
 With the descent of the Jewish people, Moshe's response is related.

The first two answers are also put to the test,
 The reason that land is singled out from all the rest,
 Is because it can not be moved so even if you shop around,
 The advantage of buying land next door can not be found.

Torah is singled out from all the moveable objects in the store,
 Because it can not be manufactured in China or Singapore,
 For objects that can be moved you can shop around,
 But another Torah can not be found.

The angels could say that Torah and land are in the same category,
 Therefore to own it, they should get priority,
 Since they are both unique, the angels were sure,
 That the Torah would remain in heaven like before.

According to answer 2, the law of Bar Metzra we can not ignore,
 Because for Torah there are descriptions more,
 Besides a gift, the Torah is called an inheritance and a purchase too,
 So how can we legally declare that the Torah belongs to me and you?

6. The angels knew that the basic level of Torah was not their concern,
 For the esoteric dimension they did yearn.
 But selling an entire property, the Bar Metzra law is not applicable,
 The angels had no claim for to "buy" only one part they were capable.

7. If a person wants to buy land so that he could make more money,
 While another person wants it to prevent financial worry,
 Then the law of Bar Metzra is put on hold,
 To the one who needs it more it is sold.

To one who wants to make a profit the angels compare,
 But the Yidden need the Torah more it is clear,
 Because our life and vitality come from the Torah,
 And it is the seasoning to tame our Yetzer Hora.

These are great answers but we are left with a question,
 Why didn't Moshe use any of these answers in his explanation?
 In fact Moshe's answer to the angels was nothing new,
 They knew that the practical they couldn't do.

To the angels, Moshe's response was clear,
 Did Hashem take you out of Egypt this year?
 Is refraining from idol worship a challenge for you?
 Do you have parents to honor and listen to?

In this physical world things are not black and white,
 We have an evil inclination to fight,
 But when we overcome our challenges and do what is right,
 We build a home for Hashem and reach the greatest height.

There is an amazing law that does say,
 That if a neighbor wants the land to plant today,
 And a stranger wants the land to build a home right away,
 Then the stranger is the one who gets his way.

The Torah has to be in a world so low,
 Because this is where Hashem wants His home to go,
 This is how we fulfill our mission,
 And realize Hashem's desire and vision.

Building a home for Hashem is our priority,
 We received the Torah for this purpose specifically,
 On Shavuot the Torah is given anew to every Jew,
 Because we are all part of Hashem's construction crew.

When you use a lever to lift the foundation,
 The entire building gets an elevation.
 So to, Torah serves as a lever to lift the world down here,
 Its effect is felt by the entire universe, everywhere.

"To build a home for Hashem, is also our aim,"
 The angels can claim.
 But to do so, they don't have the ability,
 Because they are missing the His'chadshus key.

Hashem created everything out of nothing,
 He wants us to discover His unity in everything.
 His desire is that we should transform the layers that conceal,
 So that we can create a novelty, in this world, G-dliness we can reveal.

His'chadshus is the innovative power,
 To create new things every hour.
 From Hashem's essence, this ability upon us, He does shower,
 Therefore Moshe asked the angels if they have parents to honor.

Only parents can procreate and have a baby,
 Only a Jew can transform something impure to create something holy.
 Through transforming objects of the lowest realm,
 For His Essence and Being, we create a home for Hashem!

