

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Behaalosecha, Sicha 5

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

Miriam was struck with tzaraas when she said things no good
About her brother Moshe and for that she now would
Sit outside the camp of the Jews for seven days straight
And until she could travel on all the Jewish People did wait

Rashi says this was an honor that Miriam was shown
By Hashem for the fact that she stood on her own
And kept watch as Moshe was placed in the Nile by his mother
The Bnei Yisroel waited for her just as she waited for her brother

The Rebbe asks why it is that Rashi seems to choose
To say the honor was shown by Hashem when it was really shown by the Jews?
It was the people who waited for her, their journey they were delaying
So what is Rashi teaching here – what message is he relaying?

The explanation can be found in the use of the term “respect”
Since naturally the people waited – one could not expect
That they would leave her in the desert alone and neglected
Why’d Rashi say “out of honor” when it was so she’d be protected?

when a person has Tzaraas they must pick up and leave
and live outside the Jewish camp and they’ll get no reprieve
Until they’ve spent full seven days out there on their own
then they can be purified and they can come back home

but when the Yidden traveled on instruction from Above
 the Mishkan was dismantled there was no "camp" to speak of
 so the person with Tzaraas must pause his count therefore
 and continue counting when travel stops and there's a camp once more

Therefore, the delay in travel was purely for the sake
 of Miriam's purification, so that it would not take
 more than seven days for her cleansing to take effect
 so clearly the Bnei Yisroel waiting was a matter of "respect"

And when Rashi says, "This honor was accorded by Hashem"
 He means the Yidden honored her because Hashem told them
 That she needs seven days of "camping" and traveling days don't count
 So they waited and she did return in the shortest time amount

Another question the Rebbe asks is how can you compare
 The Jews waiting for Miriam to her watching Moshe with care?
 While Moshe's very life Miriam did protect
 The Jews waiting for her was only a matter of showing respect

For this reason Rashi quotes the words "she stood from afar"
 To distant to actually help so her deed was on par
 With the Yidden waiting for her an honor that she earned
 'cuz she waited and watched Moshe respectful and concerned
