



Yeshivat Ma'alot
Parashat Beha'alotcha
Rav Yehoshua Weitzman shlit"a

ישיבת מעלות
 פרשת בהעלותך
 הרב יהושע ויצמן שליט"א

Falling and Standing Back Up

Am Yisrael's journeys in the desert, as told in this week's Parasha, are divided into two. The first part of the Parasha tells of how the tribes were organized around the Mishkan, each tribe with its own flag and its own assigned area. "From the word of Hashem they will travel and from the word of Hashem they will encamp."¹ Immediately after, the Torah has a "divider"- two p'sukim which are enclosed by the letter "nun" written backwards. After this divider the Torah begins to tell of how Bnei Yisrael complained to Hashem and how Hashem punished them. This begins a series of encounters that Bnei Yisrael have with Hashem and Moshe such as the spies who were sent to Eretz Yisrael, Korach and more.

What a downfall! Just a few p'sukim earlier everything was done exactly as Hashem said. Bnei Yisrael camped based on Hashem told them, they had the pillar of fire and smoke to protect them, and now the opposite- Hashem is angered by Bnei Yisrael's behavior, Bnei Yisrael cry to one another so much so that they would rather turn back and go to Mitzrayim!² How could this be?!

When a baby is born, his parents guard him and make sure that no evil befalls him. They hold him close to make sure that he is protected and secure. When is the first time that the baby falls? When the parents decide that the baby can walk by himself, **with the baby's best interest in mind**, they let go of their beloved child and he...**falls**. The baby will proceed to stand and fall, stand and fall until he will learn to walk by himself. The fact that he falls shows that the baby is ready to walk on his own two feet.

Yetziat Mitzrayim was distinguished by the fact that Bnei Yisrael was protected by Divine intervention that was visible to all. The revealed miracles uplifted Bnei Yisrael to unbelievable heights- "from the word of Hashem they will travel." When Hashem saw that His children were ready to pave their own future, to move forward and be uplifted, He let them do it by themselves. Although from an outward perspective we see downfall and crisis, inwardly enormous growth is taking place.

This reality played itself out of the course of generations and is once again seen in our day and age. Am Yisrael over the past century has been reborn. As our

¹ Bamidbar 9, 18

² Bamidbar 14, 4

nation returns to her homeland we are uplifted to heights that we have not dreamed of for thousands of years. There is a new spirit within Am Yisrael- a spirit of creativity, of self- sacrifice, of joy and of giving. Yet after this there is also the time during which we must learn to walk on our own two feet. In front of our own eyes we see things break down. Yet instead of letting this defeat us, we must understand that it is a sign that we can begin to walk on our own two feet. This is a sign that Am Yisrael is ready to be redeemed. From our downfalls will come our ultimate revival. Am Yisrael will go from strength to strength until coming of the Geulah Shleimah, after which we will not fall again.