

D'var Torah by Rabbi M. Jaroslawicz for Parshas Vayikra 5775 (2015)

The very first word in this week's Parsha, "Vayikra," is the subject of many interpretations. The last letter of the very first word is an "Aleph." But this is no ordinary "Aleph" -- this one is written tiny by comparison to the rest of the letters in the word and on the page.

Many commentators focus on the concept that this little Aleph represents Moshe Rabbeinu's humility, and similar such teachings.

The Zohar Hakadosh suggests a different reason for this small Aleph. The entire sentence reads:

**"Vayikra el Moshe, va'yedaber Hashem eilav
may'Ohel Moed." "And He 'called' to Moshe, and
Hashem spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting."**

The Zohar Hakadosh says that the reason the Aleph is small, or might even be perceived of as being "incomplete," is because the "calling" to which the Passuk referred is incomplete, and the location from where Hashem spoke to Moshe was also incomplete. Even though the Mishkan had been built, there is no acceptance of the concept of completion outside of the holy land of Eretz Yisroel. When the Jewish people dwell in Eretz Yisroel in charge of their land and with the rebuilding of a Bais Hamikdash, then and only then can Hashem's "calling" to us be considered "complete." Hence, says the Zohar, the small "Aleph." Both the calling as well as the location are still incomplete.

For DOS members and friends, this week was truly a jam-packed week. It began with over 135 people turning out to celebrate and participate in our very own Hachnosas Sefer Torah. We danced in the street, we sang, we listened to a few very touching and sincere speeches, and then, of course, we ate.

Every man and woman that attended and participated in the festivities was an intricate part of the "whole," allowing for a beautiful and joyous occasion to come off seamlessly.

And yet, deep in everyone's heart, there was still something that felt incomplete. We were only two days away from an Israeli election, with tensions so high that the heat could be felt in the streets for blocks on end.

And then we saw the miracle of Tuesday. Against all odds Netanyahu's "Likud" party pulled out a victory, and by a significant margin at that.

The people of Israel have spoken once again. They have clearly stated that they want the land of Israel to be "complete", and you cannot have a complete land if its ownership is divided.

Maybe this explains why the small Aleph represents Moshe's humility as well. Even though Hashem called out to Moshe and even though Moshe was going to listen and perform as best he could with what was given to him, still in the recesses of his soul he knew that without Eretz Yisroel even "he" was incomplete.

There is so much yet to unfold with regard to the elections and the relationship that Israel will maintain with the United States. Now we can only daven, and then sit back and wait to see where Hashem guides us.

We may feel a bit incomplete but, in the interim, like Moshe, we must perform as best as we can with what we have and Daven for a speedy Geulah Sh'laimah.

Have a great Shabbos