

Parshat Sh'lach L'cha 5780

Rav Zev Leff asks these questions about the episode of the M'raglim:

1. Moshe asked Hashem if he should send them. Hashem replied I am not commanding you to but send them if you want to.
2. Rashi says they were Tzadikkim. Vayeilchu Vayovou though suggests that just as they came back with an evil scheme they also went with one.
3. Moshe knew there was a plot. Why did he daven only for Y'hoshua and not for all of them?
4. How could they say Ki Chozok Hu Mimenu – the nations are stronger than Hashem
5. Why did Moshe tell them to bring back fruit.

B'nei Yisroel knew that in the Midbor everything came through open miracles. In Eretz Yisroel this would change; there would be Nissim B'Derech Teva, still miracles but natural. For example rain would depend upon their Mitzvos. Nowadays we have Hester Ponim. Hashem's face is hidden and we don't see His intervention. They mistakenly thought we make it happen. The Vilna Gaon says that in Hashem's perspective He runs the world anyway, whereas to us it sometimes seems to be by open miracles, sometimes by natural miracles and sometimes hidden.

It is not correct that we make it happen; we have to do Hishtadlus but Hashem makes a living for us. Our work is just a pre-requisite not the cause. The M'rglim were Tzaddikim but had a mistaken Hashkofoh. They put their mistaken ideas into practice and that retrospectively made them into R'shoim.

Moshe reasoned that they would not have listened to him and that he will have to send them. Hopefully they will understand that only Hashem can conquer Eretz Yisroel not them. They concluded it was impossible to conquer the land naturally and wrongly thought Hashem had tied his hands and now the nations were stronger than Hashem.

Moshe said if you need the Chizuk take the fruit. This will either make you conclude that you are helpless or alternatively that Hashem controls it.

Moshe specifically davened for Y'hoshua who would be the leader in Eretz Yisroel. Moshe added a Yud to his name symbolising Olom HaBo whereas Hei is Olom HazeH. The Midbor was like Olom Habo with all open Nissim. Y'hoshua needed to realise that in Eretz Yisroel there is really no difference between open miracles and Nissim B'Teva. Hashem is behind everything.