

Shabbat and Pesach 23/24 April 2016

We do it every year. We sit around our Seder tables, cogitating about our ancestral Exodus from Egypt. However, you might have noticed, there seems to be one glaring omission. In all, we overlook any reasonable mention of the hero of the story: Moshe. After all, Moshe was the one who met God face to face. He was the one who confronted Pharaoh, yet he is almost entirely absent from the story.

There is the classic response to this question.

The Seder night is not about Moshe. It's about G-d, as we say in the Haggadah "The Holy One, blessed be He, took us out of Egypt; not through the agency of an angel; a seraph; an emissary but it was God in His glory and essence."

The message is simple and direct. When talking about the Exodus from Egypt there are no partners in the event. The military and political might is all Hashem nothing else. Moshe plays no part, because we are God centric and we definitely do not want to idolize or deify a man, great as he may be.

But it does make one think, we say in our daily morning prayers "Do not trust in nobles in the son of man who has no salvation."

This beautiful psalm declares that God is the one in whom we put our trust-not man.

The leader of Am Yisrael was not a President or a prince as some would like to call him. Simple, our greatest leader, about whom it says that no prophet would arise in Israel like Moshe, we call him Moshe *Rabbeinu*- which means Moshe our teacher.

What a statement and value judgement that Judaism is making! Our greatest leader was a teacher.

The question is in our own lives how do we value success? Unfortunately there are those who value success by the size of their bank accounts and the power that they wield. We have become an increasingly materialistic society. We judge people by how much money they can bring in, according to the clothes they wear, the car they drive or the house in which they live. It has nothing to do with whether a person is a mensch or how he/she treats his/her fellow human being, or the contribution that the person makes to the well being of society.

Our personal exodus from Egypt means we need to re-evaluate our true life values.

On behalf of Yehudit and our children we wish you all a Happy and Kosher Pesach.