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## **Parashat Ki Tissa** **18 Adar 5783 – March 11, 2023**

Words matter, whether they are spoken or in written form! One cannot take back words. Often words are received, and the message is not understood or misunderstood. Often the manner of the way words are said or written proves to make the words dishonest and deceitful.

In Parashat Ki Tissa we read, “write yourself down these words (matters).” If the command to write own “these words” refers to the “whole” of The Torah, this specific place seems odd for such a directive. What is meant by the word “lecha” (for yourself)?

The words of the text of the Torah are spiritual by nature. The word “lecha”, as in Parashat “Lech Lecha”, means “for your benefit” (Rashi). Moses is writing the words of the Tablets for the “rapture” of the ability to write HaShem’s message. Midrash teaches that the letters wrote themselves, and Moses facilitated it. All the letters could be seen exactly the same way from any location.

What must be understood is that the letters, the words from the first set of Tablets were not lost when Moses smashed them. Moses had been given an opportunity to restore these letters to the second Tablets. Due to the spiritual nature of these letters and words, they were able to arrange themselves as soon as Moses started. Moses thusly spent another 40 days on the mountain, with HaShem, to acquire the ability to transfer these letters and words to the second set of Tablets.

It is clearly true that words matter. This particular verse is “clear” about the words and what the spiritual goal is versus a different goal that is not in the best interest of Torah and tradition.

Good Shabbos!

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer

