



Parashat Beha'a lot'cha **16 Sivan 5784 – June 22, 2024**

“Vayehi Binsoa Ha'aron VaYomer Moshe”

“And it came to pass, when the Ark set forward that Moses said:”

“Arise Hashem and let your foes be scattered, let those who hate you flee before you. And when it rested, he would say; “Return, Hashem, to the multitude of Israel.”

In the Torah these verses are enclosed by two symbols in the form of a large inverted ‘Nun’. Our sages taught us that this text has markings “above and below.” These inverted “nuns” are telling us, “from the beginning to the end.” Simply, our sages are telling us that this is another book of Torah on its own. Rabbi Yochanan of the Gemara intimates that this is one of two additional books of Torah making the total, seven. The second additional book being BeMidbar 11:1-36:13.

Moses invocation to the Almighty to “rise up” when the ark moved forward and to “return” when it rested, giving the impression that it was Moses who determined the travels and stopping places of the Ark contradicts that the Ark moved only in accordance with G-d’s command. How do we reconcile this contradiction?

There is a story told of a king who was going on a journey accompanied by this most trusted friend. When he resumes his journey he says: “I will not go forward until my friend gives the order.” This connects these verses of Torah, 85 letters that form its own book.

This Midrash clarifies the highest degree of unity between we human beings and our Creator and the complete identity of purpose. Rabbi Hirsch (O’BM) understands these two verses as successes; “Rise up” succeeds immediately the act that has been fulfilled, as in Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Sages) “Make Hashem’s will your will.”

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer