

## PARSHAT –YITRO, 2009 (5769)

Not only the Aseret HaDibrot, but also the entire episode of Maamad Har Sinai has Halachik lessons for us to always remember. As a matter of fact this is one of the six Zechirot that are found in (some) Siddurim, after Tefillat Shacharit, namely, the two Psukkin from Parshat Va'etchanan (4:9), “Only beware for yourself. lest you forget the things that your eyes have beheld ...and make them known to your children and your children's children-the day that you stood before HaShem, your G-d, at Chorev...”

According to Ramban, this remembrance is one the 613 Mitzvot, to be read at least once a year. The Magen Avraham asks, so why is there no special reading assigned to it, as we have for Parshat Zachor, the Shabbat prior to Purim? And he himself then answers, that Torah reading on Yom Tov Shavuot is the Kiyum of this Mitzvah.

The purpose of the Mitzvah is for us to remember and become inspired and motivated in Kabbalat (acceptance) of HaShem and His Mitzvot. To make sure that we always remember this event, Moshe Rabbeinu tells us, “VEKIDASHEM HAYOM U'MACHAR”, (19:10), the people should sanctify themselves today and tomorrow, that is, to immerse themselves in a Mikva and avoid any spiritual contamination. But another level of understanding is, that it is not difficult to feel spiritually uplifted when one is present at Har Sinai, hearing the words of HaShem and of Moshe Rabbeinu. What **is** an accomplishment is to feel just as inspired on the **Machar, the next day**. When we resume our regular mundane way of life. We have to carry the lessons and inspirations of Matan Torah to our daily lives, throughout the year.

One of the lessons is Commandment number five, “To honor your father and mother, so that your days will be lengthened...” Rabbeinu Saadia Gaon asks, why does Torah reward long life for honoring parents? He beautifully explains, that often, when parents live to an old age, it becomes very difficult to fulfill the Mitzvah of honoring them. Occasionally, children consider their elderly parents a **burden**, which must be visited, supported, and cared for. Therefore, Torah says that one should be thankful to have and opportunity to honor one's parents even under such circumstances, for **the longer he/she honors them, by definition, the longer he/she will merit to live**.

Let us strive to become inspired by listening attentively to the words of the Aseret HaDibrot, As if we were hearing them on Har Sinai, and carry them with us within our daily lives.