

# Smelling Mt. Sinai: How Experiential Learning is as Jewish as the Torah

Source Sheet by Eliana Leader

## Exodus 19:1-22

(1) On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the wilderness of Sinai.

(2) Having journeyed from Rephidim, they entered the wilderness of Sinai and encamped in the wilderness. Israel encamped there in front of the mountain,

(3) and Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob and declare to the children of Israel:

(4) 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me.

(5) Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine,

(6) but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel."

(7) Moses came and summoned the elders of the people and put before them all that the LORD had commanded him.

(8) All the people answered as one, saying, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the people's words to the LORD.

## שמות י"ט:א'-כ"ב

(א) בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי לְצֵאת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם מֵאֲרִיז מִצְרַיִם בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה בָּאוּ מִדְבַר סִינַי:

(ב) וַיִּסְעוּ מֵרְפִידִים וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַר סִינַי וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִדְבַר וַיַּחֲוֶן־שָׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶד הַהָר:

(ג) וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים וַיְקַרָּא אֵלָיו ה' מִן־הַהָר לֵאמֹר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יִשְׂרָאֵל וְתֹאמַרְתֶּם לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

(ד) אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרַיִם וְאֲשֶׁא אֶתְכֶם עַל־כַּנְפֵי נְשָׁרִים וְאָבִא אֶתְכֶם אֵלַי:

(ה) וְעַתָּה אִם־שָׁמַעַתְּ תִשְׁמַעוּ בְּקוֹלִי וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־בְּרִיתִי וְהִיְתֶם לִי סִגְלָה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי־לִי כָל־הָאָרֶץ:

(ו) וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ־לִי מְמַלְכֵת כַּהֲנָנִים וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תְּדַבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

(ז) וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וַיְקַרָּא לְזִקְנֵי הָעָם וַיִּשְׁמַע לְכָל־הָעָם אֶת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ ה'

(ח) וַיַּעֲנוּ כָל־הָעָם יְחָדָּו וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר ה' נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע וַיָּשָׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶת־דְּבָרֵי הָעָם אֶל־ה'

(ט) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי בָּא אֵלֶיךָ בְּעָב הָעָם בְּעִבּוֹר יִשְׁמַע הָעָם בְּדַבְּרֵי עֲמֹךָ

(9) And the LORD said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.” Then Moses reported the people’s words to the LORD,

(10) and the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and warn them to stay pure today and tomorrow. Let them wash their clothes.

(11) Let them be ready for the third day; for on the third day the LORD will come down, in the sight of all the people, on Mount Sinai.

(12) You shall set bounds for the people round about, saying, ‘Beware of going up the mountain or touching the border of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death:

(13) no hand shall touch him, but he shall be either stoned or shot; beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the ram’s horn sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain.”

(14) Moses came down from the mountain to the people and warned the people to stay pure, and they washed their clothes.

(15) And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day: do not go near a woman.”

(16) On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled.

(17) Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain.

(18) Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for the LORD had come down upon it in fire; the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently.

וּגַם-בָּרָא יֵאֱמָינוּ לְעוֹלָם וַיִּגַּד מִלְּשָׁה אֶת-דְּבָרֵי הָעָם אֵלֶיהָ'

(י) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵךְ אֶל-הָעָם וְקִדְשָׁתֶם הַיּוֹם וּמָחָר וּכְבֹּסוּ שְׂמַלְתְּכֶם:

(יא) וְהָיוּ גִבּוֹרִים לַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי כִּי אִ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי יֵרֵד ה' לְעֵינֵי כָל-הָעָם עַל-הָרֹם סִינַי:

(יב) וְהִגַּבְלֹתָ אֶת-הָעָם סָבִיב לְאָמֹר הַשְּׂמֶרֶוּ לְכֶם עֲלוֹת בְּהָר וּנְגַע בְּקַצְחֹו כָּל-הַנִּגַּע בְּהָר מוֹת יוֹמָת:

(יג) לֹא-תִגַּע בּוֹ יָד כִּי-סָקוֹל יִסְקֹל אוֹ-יָרֵה יִרְה אִם-בַּהֲמָה אִם-אִישׁ לֹא יִתְנֶה בְּמִשְׁוֹ הַיָּבֵל הַמָּה יַעֲלוּ בְּהָר:

(יד) וַיֵּרֵד מִלְּשָׁה מִן-הָהָר אֶל-הָעָם וַיְקַדְּשׁ אֶת-הָעָם וַיְכַבְּסוּ שְׂמַלְתְּכֶם:

(טו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-הָעָם הָיוּ גִבּוֹרִים לְשִׁלְשֶׁת יָמִים אֶל-תִּגְשׁוּ אֶל-אִשָּׁה:

(טז) וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בַּהֲנִית הַבְּקָר וַיְהִי קוֹלֹת וּבְרָקִים וַעֲנָן כָּבֵד עַל-הָהָר וְקוֹל שֹׁפָר חֲזֵק מְאֹד וַיִּתְרַד כָּל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֶה:

(יז) וַיֹּצֵא מִלְּשָׁה אֶת-הָעָם לְקִרְאֵת הָאֱלֹקִים מִן-הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיִּתְנַצְּבוּ בַתְּחִתֵּית הָהָר:

(יח) וְהָרֹם סִינַי עָשָׂן כְּלוֹ מִפְּנֵי אֲשֶׁר יֵרֵד עָלָיו ה' בָּאֵשׁ וַיַּעַל עָשָׁנוּ כְּעָשָׂן הַכֹּבֵשֶׁת וַיִּתְרַד כָּל-הָהָר מְאֹד:

(יט) וַיְהִי קוֹל הַשּׁוֹפָר הוֹלֵךְ וְחֲזֵק מְאֹד מִלְּשָׁה יִדְבֹר וְהָאֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶנוּ בְּקוֹל:

(כ) וַיֵּרֵד ה' עַל-הָרֹם סִינַי אֶל-רִאֵשׁ הָהָר וַיִּקְרָא ה' לְמִלְּשָׁה אֶל-רִאֵשׁ הָהָר וַיַּעַל מִלְּשָׁה:

(כא) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-מִלְּשָׁה רֵד הֵעַד בָּעָם פְּוִי-הָרֹסוּ אֵלֶיהָ לְרִאוֹת וְנִפְל מִמֶּנּוּ רַב:

(19) The blare of the horn grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder.

(כב) וגם הכהנים הנגזעים אלה' יתקדשו  
פויפרץ בקהם ה'

(20) The LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went up.

(21) The LORD said to Moses, "Go down, warn the people not to break through to the LORD to gaze, lest many of them perish.

(22) The priests also, who come near the LORD, must stay pure, lest the LORD break out against them."

