



Parashat Va'Era

January 2023

Conversation 1

There was a woman walking along with a long skirt and her head covered. She was walking a dog. So I walked up to her and asked her Parshat Va'Era, can you tell me a few sentences? She said, I don't have any idea what you're talking about, I don't know anything about it. So it turns out that this approach can also lead to some mistakes and errors.

Conversation 2

So to be a little more certain I walked nearby, there's a synagogue, I stood out front and waited for somebody to come out. And behold, he came out, a fellow. I looked him straight in the eye and he asked me, can I help you with something? So I asked him, of course, Parshat Va'Era, can you tell me a few sentences about it?

And he spoke very strongly and he said, the book of Genesis, the whole book of Genesis and last week's portion of Shmot was telling stories. It was about the history and the travels. And this week's portion, Va'Era, is when telling the story changes into action and the need for action. It's a time to act. And within this action, this is when Bnei Yaakov the sons of Jacob, became Am Yisrael the people of Israel. And he was quite strong in talking about this.

Conversations 3 and 4

Two other conversations connected with each other although they happened separately. One was with a fellow on a street corner, and the other one was with a woman hanging the clothes in a second-hand clothing door. They both talked about things we can learn from Moshe, from Moses and his approach.

The fellow talked about all the many things that Moshe did in this portion. Lots of action, lot of things happening, and in the following portions. And even so, the fellow talked about how Moshe preferred that Aaron be given the recognition and the responsibility, that Moshe was very modest, he wasn't for himself looking for any position or for any glory.

Weekly~Portion



פרשת~השבוע

And the woman in the second-hand clothing store talked about another aspect of Moshe, his openness and his hospitality of offering food to strangers. And how, in her view of it, Moshe first became true in his own calling, he became complete with himself. And then he was able to offer others and benefit others all around him in and how what he chose to do and to be. And that was because he was expressing his his own authentic self and his real person, which had to come first before he could express this to other people.