Weekly~Portion





Parashat Ki Tissa

March 2023

Blog

The Energies of Parashat Ki Tissa: The Resonating Radiance of the Community of Israel

Parashat Ki Tissa covers a lot of ground, from the holiness of Shabbat and the ritual items to the sinfulness of the golden calf. After all of these ups and downs the parashah ends with an astonishing description of Moses calling together all of the people of Israel to tell them about what happened on Mt. Sinai. However this is not a simple recounting of events, the Resonating~Torah does not just say that the people gathered together to hear what Moses had to say. An additional element is included very clearly in the coming together of Israel as a community, the element of the radiant energies that flowed while Moses and the people came together.

The radiant energies were present at the times of togetherness of the people of Israel, and absent at other times. At first the people of Israel clearly felt these energies of unity but didn't know what to make of them:

"And when Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses and the energies they were afraid to come near him". Exodus 34:30

In the next several verses the people of Israel get used to these energies of the unity of the community of Israel, and how the energies are present when Moses and the people of Israel are together but as Rashi explains Moses actually covers up the energies when he is not with Hashem and the people of Israel. The energies of the unity of Israel become the norm by the last verse of the parashah:

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"And the people of Israel would see Moses and the energies, and Moses would veil the energies until the next time they spoke". Exodus 34:35

The experience of the people of Israel is an experience of energies in addition to being an experience of people, places, and things. Parashat Ki Tissa speaks extensively of the latter, but closes with the former to make sure we know about and activate the energies that lead to resonance among us and make us radiant as a people.