



PARSHA



תרומה

3 Sources

Parshat Terumah contains the commandment to construct the Mishkan, along with all of the *keilim*, vessels, that would occupy it. All of the large *keilm* had carrying poles that would be used to transport them as Bnei Yisrael traversed the desert, and would be removed while the *keilim* were resting. However, one of the *keilim* was the exception to this rule.

Shemot 25:13-15

Make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold; then insert the poles into the rings on the side walls of the ark, for carrying the ark. The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark: they shall not be removed from it.

שמות כה:יג-טו

וַעֲשִׂיתָ בְּדֵי עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים וְצָפִיתָ אֹתָם זָהָב: וְהִבַּאתָ אֶת־הַבָּדִים בְּטִבְעָתָם עַל צִלְעֹת הָאָרוֹן לְשֵׂאת אֶת־הָאָרוֹן בָּהֶם: בְּטִבְעָתָם הָאָרוֹן יִהְיוּ הַבָּדִים לֹא יִסְרוּ מִמֶּנּוּ:

Why was it that the poles of the *Aron* had to always stay attached to the *Aron*? Rav Zalmon Sorotzkin offers an important answer that highlights the protection that Torah provides for us.

Oznayim LaTorah on Shemot 25:15

We find that the *Aron* would “carry those who carried it” as when Bnei Yisrael called the Jordan River. This is a sign for all times, that the Torah saves us in times of distress, when we hold on to the poles of the *Aron*... Therefore, we should never remove the poles from the *Aron* even for a moment, because who knows when evil can strike (God forbid). Then we should grab on to the poles of the *Aron* so that they can support us through these times.

אזנים לתורה על שמות כה:טו

מצינו בארון שנשא את נשאו כאשר עברו בני ישראל את הירדן. וזה לאות לכל הזמנים שהתורה מצלת אותנו בעת צרה, ואנו נחזקים בבדי הארון... ולפיכך לא יסורו הבדים מן הארון אף לרגע, כי מי יודע איזו רעה תבוא ח"ו לעולם? ואז עלינו להאחז בבדי הארון כדי שישא אותנו.

Rav Shamshon Rephael Hirsch takes a different perspective, highlighting the mobility and applicability of Torah to all times and places.

Rav Hirsch on Shemot 25:15

The poles of the *Aron* symbolize the destiny and the mission of carrying the *Aron* and its contents beyond the precinct of its present standing place, if this becomes necessary. The command that the poles must never be removed from the *Aron* establishes from the outset and for all time to come the truth that *this Torah and its mission are not confined to the soil on which the Sanctuary and the Temple once stood*. The constant presence of the poles testifies that Hashem's Torah is not bound to or dependent on any particular place.

2 Quotes

“What we carry defines who we are and the effort we make is our legacy.”

-Mitch Albom

“Each of us sees in others what we carry in our own hearts.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

1 Question

What are 2 things that you carry with you at all times?