

As we sit at home already over a week many thoughts go through my mind. Are all the talmidim and their families safe and healthy? Is each bochur taking advantage of the conference calls to listen to shiur? Is the time being utilized to review and be קונה the mesechta? Are we davening with extra כוונה? Are taking the advantage of the opportunity to be מקיים the miztva of כיבוד אב ואם?

I know it may be hard to do all this when we are all alone. We miss the החברה. Perhaps we underestimated the gevaldiga ruach that we were all part of. While learning chumash and rashi this past week (now may be an opportunity to spend extra time on חומש and רש"י) I was נתעורר from the Medrash Tanchuma that rashi quoted on the posuk וביאו את המשכן אל משה which explains that the משכן was too heavy to lift. משה רבינו was anguished that he did not partake in the actual מלאכת המשכן and so Hashem made it that no one could erect it so that משה רבינו would have the opportunity to do so. משה רבינו questions Hashem: The משכן is so heavy, how will I be able to so. הקב"ה responds place your hands as if you are lifting and I will allow it to lift itself. The obvious question arises. How did this pacify משה רבינו? He felt bad for not physically partaking, yet now, he still did not as it was only an illusion.

My shver, the Rosh Hayeshiva, Harav Shraga Moshe זצ"ל explained that man is truly incapable of doing anything by himself. Even the slightest task could not be accomplished without heavenly assistance. It is all הקדוש ברוך הוא. For Moshe Rabbeinu to put his hands and make a human effort is in reality all that one can do. The Midrash elsewhere adds that hashem says לא לפי כוחי אנוכי מבקש אלא לפי כוחכם אנוכי מבקש I don't request of you to do according to my abilities, rather, I request of you to do accomplish according to your abilities.

At these trying times Hashem wants us to do our best under the circumstances. Daven your best, learn your best. Whatever you do it should your best. Hashem only demands of us to do "לפי כוחכם". May הקב"ה see that we are doing our best and the rest he will בעזרת do for us. חזק !
ואמץ