

The Daily Portion

- Sivan Rahav Meir

One idea for Israel and one for the Diaspora

Translated by Janine Muller Sherr

1) It's important to note before Shabbat: This week, there will be two different Torah readings, one for Israel and one for the Diaspora. In Israel, we will read Parashat Sh'lach and outside Israel – B'ha-alo-tcha.

2) Parashat B'ha-alo-tcha discusses the lighting of the Menorah in the Mishkan. Our sages explain that each one of us is tasked with bringing light and joy to the world. This parasha also describes the complaints of the Children of Israel in the desert – they complain about the food and fail to connect to their collective mission. God instructs Moshe to appoint seventy elders to raise the spirits of the nation. Our spirit, education, and values are what drive us and give us strength.

3) In Parashat Sh'lach, twelve spies are sent to Israel to observe the land. Ten of them return with a discouraging report: The people will not succeed in conquering the land. Only two of the spies assert that the land is good and that God wants us to continue our journey to Israel. Who was correct here? The two spies who

were in the minority. The Torah explains that they were imbued with RU'ACH ACHERET - a different spirit. It is important for us to stand for what the Torah asks of us - for what is right - even if we find ourselves in the minority. And the end of the parasha introduces two familiar mitzvot: HAFRASHAT CHALLAH (separating the Challah) and Tzitzit. God teaches us to demonstrate our values in our private lives - in our clothes and our kitchens.

Shabbat Shalom - wherever you are in the world.

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