

Yitro 5786

Pirke Avot 5:6

Ten things were created on the eve of the Sabbath at twilight, and these are they: [1] the mouth of the earth, [2] the mouth of the well, [3] the mouth of the donkey, [4] the rainbow, [5] the manna, [6] the staff [of Moses], [7] the shamir, [8] the letters, [9] the writing, [10] and the tablets. And some say: also the demons, the grave of Moses, and the ram of Abraham, our father. And some say: and also tongs, made with tongs.

Sifrei Devarim Piska 22

"And they came to the river-bed of *Eshkol*": so-called by reason of the cluster (*eshkol*) of grapes (that they were to take from there [viz. Bamidbar 13:24]). Similarly, (Shemoth 3:1) "and he came to *the mountain of G-d* to Chorev": so-called because of what would occur there in the future.

Pirke deRebbi Eliezer 35:3

Rabbi ' Aqiba said: Every place where our forefathers went, the well went in front of them,

Exodus Rabbah 2:4

"...He arrived at the mountain of God, to Horev." It has five names: "The mountain of God, Mount Bashan, Mount Gavnunim" (Psalms 68:16), Mount Horev, Mount Sinai. The mountain of God – because it was there that Israel accepted the Holy One blessed be He as their God.

Mount Bashan – as everything that a person eats with his teeth [*bashinav*] is thanks to the Torah that was given on the mountain. Likewise it says: "If you follow My statutes...I will provide your rains in their seasons" (Leviticus 26:3–4).

Mount Gavnunim – it is as pure as cheese [*gevina*], and they were pure without blemish.

Mount Horev – from it, the Sanhedrin received license to execute with the sword [*herev*]. Rabbi Shmuel bar Nahman said: It was from there that idolaters received their death sentence, as it is stated: "The nations will be destroyed [*harov yeheravu*]" (Isaiah 60:12) – from Horev they will be destroyed.

Mount Sinai – from which hatred [*sina*] for idolaters descended.

Bavli Shabbat 89a

As Rav Ḥisda and Rabba, son of Rav Huna, both said: What is the reason it is called Mount Sinai? It is because it is a mountain upon which hatred [*sina*] for the nations of the world descended because they did not accept the Torah.

Pirke deRebbei Eliezer 41:5

Rabbi Elazar of Modein said: From the day when the heavens and the earth were created, the name of the mountain was Horeb. When the Holy One, blessed be He, was revealed unto Moses out of the thorn-bush, because of the word for the thorn-bush (*S'neh*) it was called Sinai (*Sinai*), and that is Horeb. And whence do we know that Israel accepted the Torah at Mount Horeb? Because it is said, "The day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb" (Deut. 4:10).

Midrash Tanchuma Parashat Shemot 24

He said to him: All these years Aaron has prophesied to them. So am I now to go to them in my brother's domain so that he will be upset? For that reason Moses did not desire to go. The Holy One said to him: Your brother Aaron will not be upset over this matter. Rather he will be happy. You yourself know that he is going out for a meeting with you. It is so stated (in Exod. 4:14): SEE, HE IS SETTING OUT TO MEET YOU; AND WHEN HE SEES YOU, HE WILL BE HAPPY IN HIS HEART: not in his mouth alone but in his heart, his heart more than his mouth. WHEN HE SEES YOU, HE WILL BE HAPPY IN HIS HEART. R. Simeon ben Johay said: The heart that was happy at his brother's greatness shall put on Urim and Thummim, as stated (in Exod. 28:30): AND INSIDE THE BREAST PLATE OF JUDGMENT YOU SHALL PUT THE URIM AND THUMMIM SO THAT THEY SHALL BE UPON AARON'S HEART. Ergo (In Exod. 4:14): AND ALSO SEE, HE IS SETTING OUT TO MEET YOU; AND WHEN HE SEES YOU, HE WILL BE HAPPY IN HIS HEART. When <the Holy One> had said this to him, <Moses> took it upon himself to go. Immediately the Holy One revealed himself to Aaron. He said to him: Go out to meet your brother Moses so that he may know that you are happy over the matter. It is therefore stated (in Exod. 4:27): GO INTO THE DESERT TO MEET MOSES. Ergo (in Cant. 8:1): IF ONLY YOU COULD BE TO ME LIKE A BROTHER, like Moses and Aaron who loved each other. (Ibid., cont. :) IF I MET YOU OUTSIDE, I WOULD KISS YOU. (Exod. 4:27:) SO HE WENT TO MEET HIM ON THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD AND KISSED HIM.

Midrash Tehillim 87:2

Another interpretation of the foundation of the world is based on the holy mountains - Mount Sinai and Mount Moriah, which are both symbols of holiness. Rabbi Pinchas, citing Rabbi Reuven, said that God will bring Jerusalem to the forefront and place it on Mount Sinai, Mount Tavor, and Mount Carmel, as it is said in Isaiah 2:2, "And it shall come to pass in the end of days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the top of the mountains."

Pirke deRebbi Eliezer 29

Hence the sages instituted (the custom) that people should have a seat of honour for the Messenger of the Covenant; for Elijah, may he be remembered for good, is called the Messenger of the Covenant, as it is said, "And the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in, behold, he cometh" (Mal. 3:1).

I Kings 19:8-10

8) He arose and ate and drank; and with the strength from that meal he walked forty days and forty nights as far as the mountain of G-d at Horeb. 9) There he went into a cave, and there he spent the night. Then the word of G-D came to him: "Why are you here, Elijah?" 10) He replied, "I am moved by zeal for the ETERNAL, the G-d of Hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and put Your prophets to the sword. I alone am left, and they are out to take my life."