



**Project:** Sermon Resource for Shluchim  
**Distribution Date:** June 20, 2007 / ד' תמוז תשס"ז  
**Parsha:** Chukat / חוקת

בי"ה

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1. Many Jews want to be buried in Israel.  
 Jacob was the first to make this request – for 2 reasons:

- a. He did not want to roll underground to Israel to be resurrected.
- b. Being buried in Israel is like being buried under the Holy Altar.



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2. The Rebbe once asked, "Why are our Rebbes buried outside of Israel?"

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3. This week's parsha:  
 Moses & Aaron are punished for hitting the rock: they will not enter the Promised Land.  
 I am always asked: such a harsh punishment for hitting a rock? And what did Aaron & Miriam do?



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4. But first:  
 Why did Moses disobey G-d's instructions?  
 Midrash: the Jewish people angered Moses. In his anger he made a mistake.  
 Still, Moses is such a great man that there is must to this than what meets the eye.



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5. Jonah:  
 Why did he disobey?  
 Rashi: Jonah feared that if the Nineveh people repented the Jews will look bad.  
 He sacrificed himself to protect the Jewish people, for he loved them.



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6. Q: G-d would find another messenger; why incur G-d's wrath for no reason?  
 A: He loved them too much to have a hand in their destruction.

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7. Moses did the same:  
 He feared that if the rock obeyed the Jews would look bad.  
 He sacrificed himself to protect the Jewish people, for he loved them.



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8. This now stands as a great merit for us Jews:  
 In *tefilas geshem* on Sukkos we say, "He struck the rock and out came water."  
 If this was a sin we wouldn't mention it.  
 Like the Kohen Gadol not wearing gold on Yom Kippur.



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9. Original question (even stronger):  
 Why did G-d punish Moses for doing a  
 good thing?  
 Rebbe: Moses chose to stay in the  
 desert be with his generation.



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10. Our Rebbes also remained outside  
 of Israel to be with their generation  
 To help, pray and protect us through  
 the long, arduous exile.  
 And soon they will lead their flock into  
 Israel, when Moshiach comes.

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