



The Thoughtful Mountain

A Shavuot Story

Based on a story in the Talmud describing how Hashem specifically selected Mount Sinai, a simple mountain, in order to teach a lesson in the importance of being thoughtful of others.

Adapted by the Nursery Class of the Zimmer School - Basking Ridge, NJ

Hashem took the Jewish people out of Egypt. They were not slaves anymore - they were free! The people were so happy to have their freedom, and be able to make choices about how to live thoughtful lives.



Hashem told the people that in 49 days He would give them a very special present. This present would teach them and help them make good choices. It would help them do good things that are thoughtful to others and to the world. This present was called the Torah.

Hashem wanted to give them the Torah because He loves and cares for everyone very much. Hashem wants to help us make good choices and use our time and energy to do good things.

Everyone was so excited, and they began to count down each of the 49 days, until the 50th day, when they were ready to receive the Torah - the most wonderful present!



Hashem said: “I want to teach my people to feel **STRONG** and **PROUD**, like a **MOUNTAIN**. They will be **STRONG** enough to make good choices and do the right thing. They will feel **PROUD** of their choices. Oh yes! I will teach them this by giving them the Torah on a **MOUNTAIN**.”



Which **MOUNTAIN** should Hashem choose for this special job? There are so many different **MOUNTAINS** all over the world! Which one was the right **MOUNTAIN** upon which to give the Torah?

Suddenly, the MOUNTAINS began to argue!



The tallest mountain spoke up first:

“Look at me! I am so tall that the top of my mountain is in the clouds. I am the tallest mountain in the world. Hashem should give the Torah on me!”



“I am the tallest mountain of all. I want to be the one that everyone should go to, to get the Torah. I have like a beak on the top of my mountain. I can reach up to the sky and into the clouds.”

If Abby could talk to the mountain this is what she would say:

“Don't be fighting with your friends, you need not be fighting with them or copying things that are not nice. Then the mountain started to talk and not be nice. But Mountain Sinai would think about his words first, he wanted to be a nice mountain so he would say nice words.”

- ABBY



"I am the hottest mountain. I have hot smoke and fire. Hashem will choose me because I have a volcano of smoke."

If Torata could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:
"You are using fight words and that is not good. You have to do it nicely."

- TORATA

Then another mountain boasted,

"Well, I am the hottest mountain of all. I am a volcano. Do you see the black smoke pouring from my crater and my hot, red lava bubbling down my sides. I am much more exciting than you. Hashem should give the Torah on me, because I am the hottest mountain!"





“Well,” said a third mountain,
“I am the prettiest mountain. I am
covered in blooming flowers of so many
colors, each flower having another
beautiful fragrance. Hashem should
give the Torah on me, because I am
much prettier than all of you.”

“The flower mountain was boasting off and showing off what it can do. I don't like the other mountains boasting around me. But the flower mountain still boasted. I am the prettiest mountain of them all. I have flowers and green grass. My flowery mountain does everything of all. I just stay here and boasts off.”

If Cayden could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:

“Grassy flower mountain don't be so mad. Don't say things not politely. I think it is not nice, not nice is not good. So no one should do anymore boasting. You can be nice. When you want something you have to say “please can I have it.” You have to talk nice words because you need to be nice just like the nice mountain Mount Sinai.”

- CAYDEN





“So, you have flowers!” Said another mountain.
“I have beautiful green grass all over me. Hashem will definitely choose me, because I am the greenest, grassiest mountain in the world!”



“I want the Torah on me because I like it. Hashem will pick me because I am really grassy. My grass feels ticklish sometimes and soft. I look so nice with all my grass”

If Izzy could talk to the mountain this is what she would say:
“Grassy mountain that is not the right thing to do. It is not good to argue. You make your friends sad when you talk like that. You can talk nice instead.”

- IZZY



“The water mountain boasted: I am the water mountain. I have a little bit of waterfalls on me and a lot of water. The water goes down to another place. You can't drink the water because it is dirty but you can swim in the water. Hashem should choose me because I am the prettiest mountain because of the water on me.”

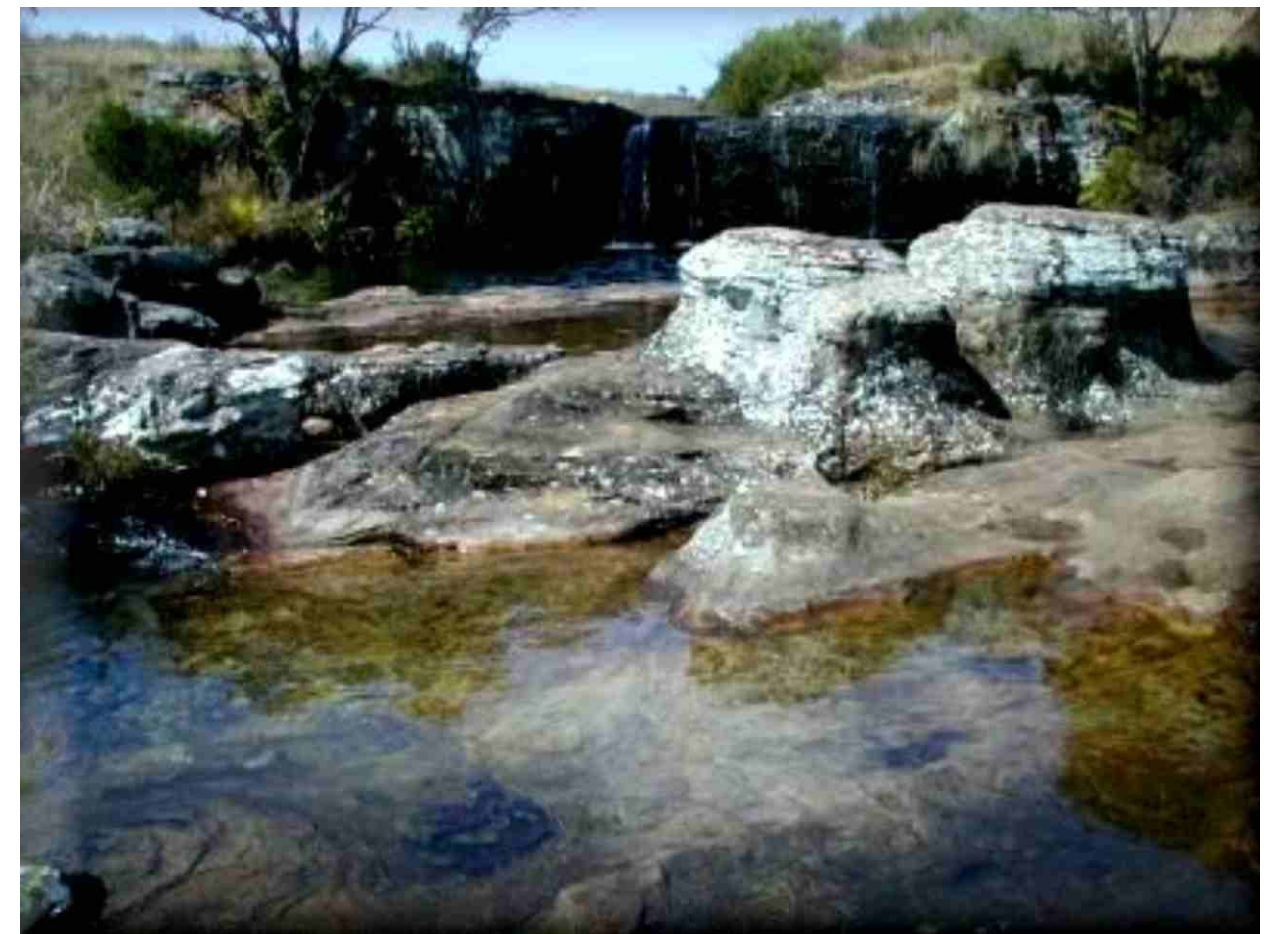
If Nicolas could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:

“All the mountains are not talking very nice but Mount Sinai was talking very nice. He would think about his words and the other mountains and that he wants to be nice.”

- NICOLAS

Then another mountain started to show off, too!

“Actually, I think the mountain streams on me makes me the best mountain in the world. The beautiful blue pools of water on me makes me feel fresh and am the most special mountain for Hashem to give the Torah.”





“I am the waterfall mountain. My mountain is really pretty. The water looks beautiful and it falls into a stream. I have a rainbow. My mountain should get the Torah.”

If Tyler could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:

“Mountain don't be not nice. Your words are not nice and makes other people feel sad. I don't want you to talk like you are angry. Please talk nicely.”

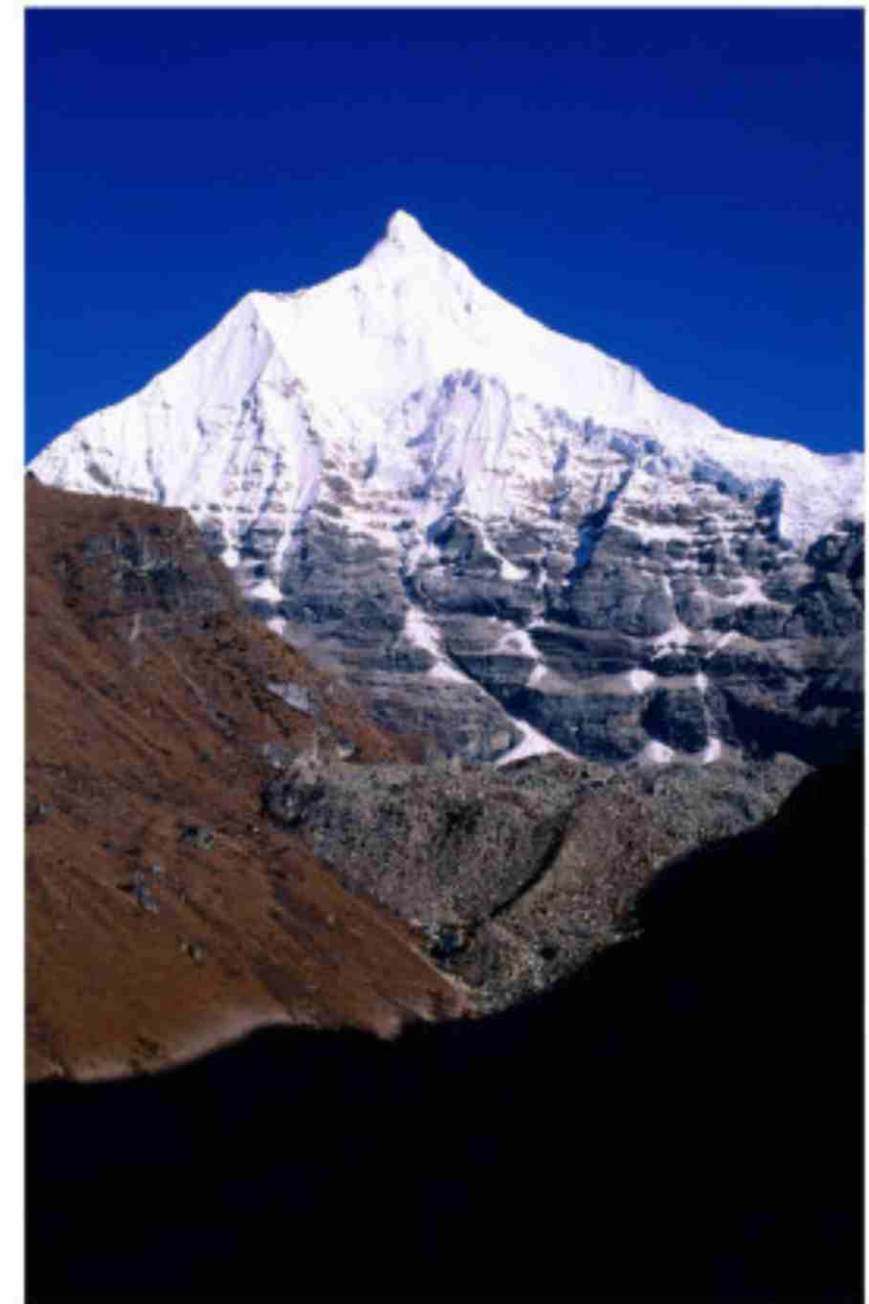
- TYLER

“But I have beautiful waterfalls. They are much bigger and better than streams. I think that Hashem will pick me,” said another mountain.





“I think Hashem is going to choose me. Look, do you see the snowy peak on me? Just my tip is covered with white snow. I am the perfect mountain for Hashem to give the Torah,” said another mountain.



“I am the snowy mountain. I have snow all over. I like the sound of the crunch of the snow on my mountain. I want the Torah on me because it is special. I think Hashem will give the Torah on me because I like it so much and I am so snowy.”

If Kiera could talk to the mountain this is what she would say:

“I like your snow on your mountain, but you need to talk properly. You have to use your nice words. When you talk mean words that makes my feelings sad.”

- KIERA



“Hashem will choose me because I have hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of snow. I am excited for the Torah. He was saying words to hurt his friends, he was boasting off.”

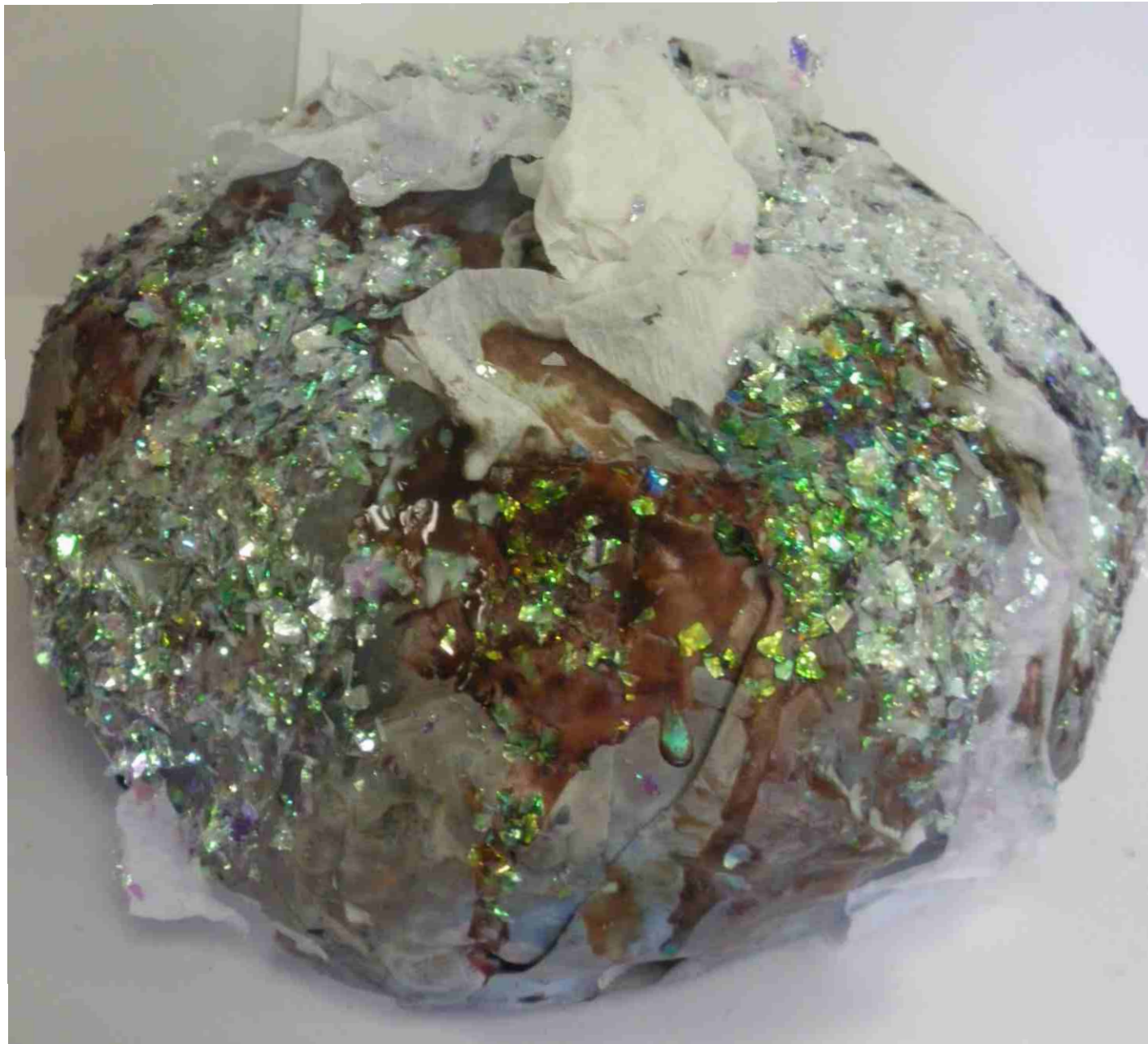
If Alex could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:

“I don't like the way you are talking you are using boasting words, it is hurting your friends. Don't hurt your friend's feelings. You should talk nicely like making his friends feel happy.”

- ALEX

The mountains just did not stop arguing. One mountain said, “I am the whitest mountain of all. I don't just have a little bit of snow; I am covered in snow! Hashem will pick me.”





A glacier mountain then said, “if you think snow looks nice, then you should see my glacier. The ice sliding down my slope makes me the best mountain of all. Hashem will pick me!”



“I am the iciest mountain. People could climb up and slide down on me. Hashem should choose me the mountain.”

If Nechemia could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:
“Hashem did not choose you the iciest mountain because you are fighting with his mouth and said mean words. We need to be nice to people and say nice words because when we say mean words they will feel sad and cry.”

- NECHEMIA



"I am the rockiest mountain of all time. Everyone can climb on me. You hold a pick in your hand and hit it in the rock and you climb up the rock. Then when you want to go down the mountain you pick up the pick and go up-down, up-down the mountain. I am very strong and hard mountain because rocks are very hard. I was not doing something very nice, I was showing off."

If Jasper could talk to the mountain this is what he would say:

"Please rocky mountain, please stop doing that. Don't argue to your friends. You should not boast off and show off to anyone. That is being not very nice. Then your friends might get sad."

- JASPER

"I am a rocky mountain. I am the best place for mountain climbing, and people have so much fun on me. I am tough, and everyone can count on me. I am the best mountain, and I think Hashem will choose me," boasted yet another mountain.





“But why would Hashem want a rocky mountain. I think Hashem wants a nice soft place to give the Torah. I am covered with soft leaves and beautiful bushes, making me the softest mountain of all.”



“I am the grassy mountain. I am all grassy. It makes me feel all soft and makes everything grow. The mountain grows from side to side.”

If Julian could speak to the mountain this is what he would say:

“I need to teach you the right way to talk. All you are talking and you are saying not nice words about you.”

- JULIAN



Alden

Mount Sinai stopped to think, “I know that I am a special mountain because there is only one me in the whole world. Hashem made me and I am proud to be just the way I am.

When I hear the words of the other mountains it makes me feel uncomfortable. Their words sound like they are showing off that they are so great. I think that everyone should be happy with what they have.

I am not going to show off and use words that would make others feel sad. When I speak I want to try and be a thoughtful friend.”



So Hashem chose Mount Sinai to be the mountain upon which to give the TORAH. Hashem wanted everyone to know that we should be **STRONG** to do the right thing, **PROUD** of who we are, and also be **THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS**.

On the day after 49 days, it was day number 50, the day they would get the Torah. Hashem made Mount Sinai look so beautiful with grass and flowers. Then, Hashem gave us the TORAH, because Hashem loves us.



Ryley

Every year, we celebrate that Hashem gave us the special present, the Torah on SHAVUOT. We are happy to have the Torah so we can learn good things.

On Shavuot we eat yummy food to celebrate the holiday. We also decorate our homes with beautiful flowers, to remember how Hashem decorated Mount Sinai for that special day.

Happy Shavuot!