

The Art of Appreciation

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In this week's Parsha, Parshat Noach, Hashem brings a mabul, a tremendous flood for 40 days and 40 nights which wiped out all the people with the exception of Noach and his family. The Medrash asks: why did Hashem choose water as the punishment? There is a parable where a king instructs his ministers to bring him all people who are mute. The king provides them with the best food and clothes which they enjoy. Even though they are unable to speak, they praise the king through body motions such as standing in his honor and bowing. Afterwards, the king instructs his ministers to bring him poor beggars who he will provide with luxuries and who can then praise him with speech. However, to the king's dismay, the beggars do not offer any praise and instead try to rebel against him by trying to take over the kingdom. The king banishes the beggars from his kingdom and says that he prefers to bring back the people who are mute as they showed appreciation to him. When Hashem created the world, it was filled with water. Even though the water was not able to offer praise, it roared with waves as a sign of appreciation. Hashem then decided to separate the waters and create people who can offer praise with their speech. Instead, the people started committing terrible sins. As a result, Hashem brought back the water that He created originally which resulted in the mabul. May we all merit to realize the true art of appreciation.

Parsha Questions

- 1) What did Noach build? (A Teva)
- 2) What did Hashem send on earth? (Mabul-flood)
- 3) How long did it rain for? (40 days and 40 nights)
- 4) Who went into the Teva? (Noach and his family and animals)
- 5) How many floors were on the Teva? (3)
- 6) What were on each of the floors? (Top floor-people; middle floor-animals and bottom floor-garbage)
- 7) How many pairs of Kosher and non Kosher animals did Noach bring into the Teva? (7 Kosher and 2 non Kosher)
- 8) Why did Hashem bring a flood? (People were stealing)
- 9) What two animals did Noach send out to see if the land was dry? (Raven and dove)
- 10) What did the people build to rebel against Hashem? (Tower)