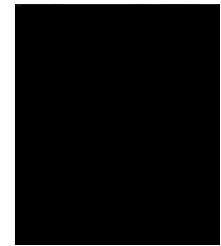


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Shabbat Parashat Beha'alotekha
June 22, 2019 – 19 Sivan 5779



By: Rabbi Cheryl Peretz
Associate Dean
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Beha'alotekha 5779 Chant for Healing

Torah Reading: Numbers 8:1 - 12:16
Haftarah Reading: Zecharia 2:14 - 4:7

This week's Torah portion, Beha'alotekha calls our attention to many themes and ideas from the period of the Israelites' wandering through the desert. Amidst the complex and detailed narrative is one short passage has captured my attention this year:

"...there was Miriam stricken with snow-white scales. When Aaron turned toward Miriam, he saw that she was stricken with scales. And Aaron said to Moses, 'O my lord, account not to us the sin which we committed in our folly. Let her not be as one dead'... So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, 'El na refa na la - O God, pray heal her!'" (Numbers 12:10-13)

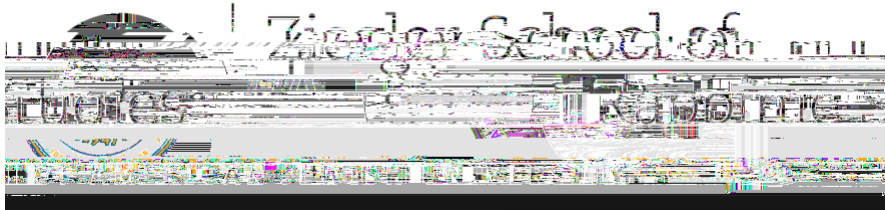
In the blink of an eye, Moses' sister, Miriam, is stricken with disease. It is in this moment that Moses, the same man whom we are told suffers from a speech impediment, calls out with clear, concise and articulate words of prayer – El na refa na la – O God, pray heal her.

perhaps we understand that when a loved one is struggling or in pain so are we (even if it is a different pain). And, in naming it, we begin the journey to healing, however long a path it might be.

El Na Refa Na La – O God, pray heal her. And him. And, them. And, us.

Shabbat shalom.

Rabbi Cheryl Peretz, is the Associate Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, where she also received her ordination. She also holds her MBA in Marketing Management from Baruch College, and helps bring those skills and expertise into the operational practices of rabbis and congregations throughout North America.



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