

INSTILLING CONFIDENCE IN OUR CHILDREN

RABBI REUVEN LEBOVITZ

שמות ו:יב-יג

וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה לִפְנֵי ה' לֵאמֹר הֵן בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא-שָׁמְעוּ אֵלַי וְאִיךָ יִשְׁמְעֵנִי פֶּרְעָה וְאֲנִי עֶרְל שְׁפָתַיִם:
וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּצִיג אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶל-פֶּרְעָה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם לְהוֹצִיא אֶת-בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם:

אבן עזרא שמות ד:א

Hashem promised Moshe that the elders would believe him, but did not mention all the people would. Or perhaps Moshe thought they would hear him but not believe him.

הנה השם אמר שיאמינו בו הזקנים רק לא הזכיר ככה. כי ושמעו לקולך אולי לא יאמינו בלב.

רמב"ן שמות ו:יב

It is also plausible to explain that Moshe thought that perhaps it was due to his defect that Bnai Yisrael did not listen to him, for he had "sealed lips" and therefore, not suited to speak convincingly to them. Moshe thought even more so this would be true, if he would speak to Paroh.

ויתכן לפרש שחשב משה אולי כי מפחיתותו לא שמעו אליו כי הוא ערל שפתיים ולא יכין לדבר על לבם דברים טובים דברים נוחמים אף כי ידבר לפרעה.

Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch Shemot 6:12

12 וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה לִפְנֵי ה' אל ה'. This expression does not occur elsewhere in the Torah except in verse 30 (below), where Moshe repeats this argument. Moshe expresses it not to God, but to himself, and God, as it were, overhears it. It was his natural mood and his natural doubts that involuntarily escaped him.

עֶרְל שְׁפָתַיִם exceeds לכּוֹד לִשָּׁן (above, 4:10). That phrase denotes merely a clumsiness of speech, whereas עֶרְל is one who has no control over the faculty with which he is naturally endowed (cf. Commentary, Bereshis 17:10). Moshe is saying: "Even if I overcome the clumsiness of my vocal organs, I still lack the actual power of speech, the right words fail me. As much as I would like to announce glorious tidings to the people, and inspire them and uplift them, the power to do so fails me; I do not have the ability, and I fail, as I have just experienced."

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רשב"ם שמות ד':

I have a heavy mouth and sealed lips- I am not fluent in Egyptian language. Since I left when I was a young man and now I am 80 years old.

כי כבד פה וערל לשון אנכי -
איני בקי בלשון מצרים בחיתוך לשון, כי בקטנותי
ברחתי משם ועתה אני בן שמונים

An Excerpt from: "The Mental Skills and Characteristics Related to a Major League Baseball Player's Performance: A Qualitative Study" By Kimberly Wagner

A study of MLB players indicated that a key component that separates major league players from the minor leagues and all other levels is their ability to develop mental characteristics and mental skills.

Among them were mental toughness, confidence, maintaining a positive attitude, dealing with failure, expectations, and positive self-talk.

Rabbi Aharon Karliner "Dor Daiah," vol.1, p.167

Believing you are inferior, untalented, unimportant or incapable influences your abilities. If you view yourself as unable to do things, you will be unable to do them. On the other hand, if you see yourself as talented, capable, and important, your self-concept will open up powers and talents that would have otherwise remained dormant.

תלמוד בבלי מסכת סנהדרין דף לז עמוד א

"Each person is obligated to say, 'The universe was created for me.'"

כל אחד ואחד חייב לומר: בשבילי נברא העולם.