

נשי
ובנות
חב"ד

SIVAN

N'SHEI
U'BNOS
CHABAD

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לזכות
הרה"ת ר' מנחם מאניס
הכהן וזוגתו מרת חנה הנקא
ומשפחתם שיחיו פרידמאן

נדפס ע"י
משפחתם שיחיו

The highlight of the month of Sivan is the Yom Tov of Shavuos, the day when Hashem gave the Torah to the Jewish people. As with many pivotal moments in Jewish history, women played a highly significant role.

Let us examine two key aspects of Matan Torah that underscore the important role of Jewish women.

WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT

Before Hashem gave the Torah to the Jewish people, the Midrash tells us that Hashem instructed Moshe to first inform the women and girls. Hashem's command was clear: "*Ko somar l'veis Yaakov v'sageid livnei Yisroel*"—"Speak [first] to the women ("*beis Yaakov*"), and [then] say to the men ("*nei Yisroel*")." This order ensured that, despite any challenges or doubts the Yetzer Hara might pose to prevent the Yidden from accepting the Torah, the Jewish women would take the lead and ensure that the nation wholeheartedly committed to Torah and *mitzvos*.

The lesson is clear:

Thousands of years ago, when Hashem gave the Torah to the Jewish people standing at the foot of Har Sinai—

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and together with it, provided the strength needed to uphold its *mitzvos*—Hashem emphasized that this commitment would be led by Jewish women. Today, as we again accept the Torah and its *mitzvos*, it is the Jewish women at the forefront, showing unwavering dedication to Torah and *mitzvos*, thus also strengthening the men to accept the Torah with a commitment to fulfill its dictates throughout the year.¹

STARTING AT HOME

The Midrash famously teaches that the Torah was only given once the Jewish people took responsibility for ensuring that future generations would uphold it. They made a commitment that the children would be the guarantors who would ensure the Torah would never be forgotten. This responsibility is a clear sign that the continued commitment of

the Jewish people to Torah is largely in the hands of Jewish women.

It is up to the wife to encourage her husband to deepen his Torah study. She holds the responsibility to maintain a high standard of *kedusha* within the home. Furthermore, the mother, who devotes countless hours to raising her children, must see herself as the guardian of their Jewish education, providing them with a strong foundation in Torah.

Additionally, through being active in supporting Torah institutions and spreading Yiddishkeit in her surroundings, she has significant influence outside the home as well.² **T**

1. Likkutei Sichos vol. 2, p. 577.

2. Igros Kodesh vol. 22, p. 458.