

CHILDREN OF HASHEM

Background

This discussion was held at a critical moment in the history of mankind. Because of the sin of building and worshipping the Golden Calf, the entire Jewish Nation was slated to be destroyed. Moshe intervened by davening to HASHEM. This conversation is one of the strategies that he applied.

**מדרש רבה שמות פרשה מג
פסקה ו**

בשעה שעשו ישראל אותו מעשה עמד לו משה מפייס את האלהים אמר רבון העולם עשו לך סיוע ואתה כועס עליהם העגל הזה שעשו יהיה מסייעך אתה מזריח את החמה והוא הלבנה אתה הכוכבים והוא המזלות אתה מוריד את הטל והוא משיב רוחות אתה מוריד גשמים והוא מגדל צמחים אמר הקב"ה משה אף אתה טועה כמותם והלא אין בו ממש אמר לו א"כ למה אתה כועס על בניך הוי למה ה' יחרה אפך בעמך

When the Klal Yisroel made the egel, Moshe stood up to appease HASHEM. He said, "Master of the Universe, they made a helpmate for You, and You are angry? This calf they made will help You. You will make the sun shine, and it will make the moon shine. You will cause the stars to shine, and it will cause the constellations to shine. You will make the dew come down, and it will make the wind blow. You will make the rain fall, and it will make the crops grow."

HASHEM said to Moshe, "Are you making the same blunder as they? This calf has no power!" Moshe answered, "Then why are You angry about something that is powerless?"

Questions

This would seem to be about as irreverent an approach as any human being could employ in speaking to HASHEM. It is almost as if Moshe Rabbeinu is playing with HASHEM, trying to entrap Him in some kind of game, as if to say, "You see, You Yourself admitted there was nothing to the *avodah zarah*, so why are You getting so bent out of shape?"

This doesn't seem to be a respectful or wise approach for the leader of the Jewish people to use when speaking to the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Yet not only did Moshe use this tactic, it seems to have been effective. The question is: why?