

# ROBOTIC JUDAISM

## Background

When HASHEM approached Moshe to appoint him to redeem the Jewish Nation, Moshe was reluctant to accept the responsibility. He asked HASHEM two questions: “Who am I to be the one to bring them out of their bondage?” and “What merit does the Jewish people have that will allow them to be freed?”

HASHEM answered in terms of his first question, “It isn’t your might; it is the might of HASHEM. And the sign that I have the power to fulfill My word is the burning bush. Just as that bush did my bidding and wasn’t harmed, so too, you, if you act as My agent, will go unharmed.”

## Questions

It is clear from this Rashi that HASHEM was giving a sign to Moshe. In case his *bitachon* was weak, and he wasn’t sure that HASHEM could bring him out safely, the burning bush would be his sign.

This Rashi is very difficult to understand. HASHEM is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that they contain. If Moshe needed *chizuk* in his *emunah*, the stars, the sun, and the moon could be more powerful testaments to the strength of HASHEM. While the burning bush was a miracle, it pales in comparison to the forces of nature as a demonstration of the might of HASHEM. Why did HASHEM use the burning bush as the sign of His might when there are so many more powerful manifestations?

### ספר שמות פרק ג

(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ וְזֶה לָּךְ הָאוֹת כִּי אֲנֹכִי שְׁלַחְתִּיךָ בְּהוֹצִיאֲךָ אֶת הָעָם מִמִּצְרַיִם תַּעֲבֹדוּן אֶת הָאֱלֹהִים עַל הַהָר הַזֶּה:

*And HASHEM said, “I will be with you, and this will be to you a sign that I have sent you to take this nation out of Mitzrayim; you will serve HASHEM on this mountain.”*

### רש"י על שמות פרק ג פסוק יב

(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ - השיבו על ראשון ראשון ועל אחרון אחרון שאמרת מי אנכי כי אלך אל פרעה לא שלך היא כי אם משלי כי אהיה עמך וזה המראה אשר ראית בסנה לך האות כי אנכי שלחתיך ותצליח בשליחותי וכדאי אני להציל כאשר ראית הסנה עושה שליחותי ואיננו אוכל כך תלך בשליחותי ואינך ניזוק.

*HASHEM answered Moshe on the first question first, and the second question second: “You said, ‘Who am I to go to Pharaoh?’ It is not your merit, but Mine. And the image that you saw, the burning bush, shall be your sign that you will succeed and that I am able to save you. Just as the bush did My service and wasn’t consumed, so too, you will go as my representative and you will not be damaged.”*