

KIDDUSH HASHEM

Background

Moshe and Aharon are being told that they failed in their mission. They should have spoken to the rock, and instead they hit it. By doing so, they limited the *Kiddush* HASHEM (sanctification of HASHEM's name). Because they did not create the proper honor of HASHEM, they will not be allowed to bring the Jewish nation into the Land of Israel.

ספר במדבר פרק כ

וַיֹּאמֶר יְדֹדְךָ אֶל מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר לֹא הֶאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישֵׁנִי לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת הַקֶּהֱלֵ הַזֶּה אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָהֶם

And HASHEM said to Moshe and Aharon, "Since you didn't believe in Me to honor Me in the eyes of the Jewish people, you will not bring this nation to the land that I have given to them."

רש"י על במדבר פרק כ פסוק יב

להקדישני - שאילו דברתם אל הסלע והוציא הייתי מקודש לעיני העדה ואומרים מה סלע זה שאינו מדבר ואינו שומע ואינו צריך לפרנסה מקיים דבורו של מקום קל וחומר אנו

To honor Me- Had you spoken to the rock and let it bring forth water, I would have been honored in the eyes of the nation, and they would have said, "If a rock that cannot speak, cannot listen, and does not require sustenance, can still fulfil the word of HASHEM, how much more so should we?"

Questions

If their sin was "not bringing honor to HASHEM," what difference would it have made whether they spoke to the rock or hit it? For a rock to bring forth water is a miracle of unimaginable proportions. It matters very little whether the water came through with words or via striking. Either way, it is a huge miracle that would surely affect the Jewish nation.