

MEN ARE FROM MARS

Background

Moshe Rabbeinu's reaction seems to be the exact opposite of HASHEM's. His sense about the mirrors that the women brought was that they were disgusting, unfit for such a holy creation as the Mishkan. Not only does HASHEM disagree, but HASHEM says the opposite. "Of all of the donations that the Jewish nation brought, these are the holiest." Yet HASHEM's reason for cherishing them was the same reason that Moshe saw them as disgusting: because they were used by women to beautify themselves.

Questions

How is it possible that Moshe Rabbeinu, who was on the highest level of prophecy, could have viewed something from the opposite extreme to what HASHEM finally revealed to him?

ספר שמות פרק לח

ח וַיַּעַשׂ אֶת הַכִּיּוֹר נְחֹשֶׁת וְאֶת כְּנֹו נְחֹשֶׁת בְּמִרְיָת
הַצְּבָאוֹת אֲשֶׁר צָבְאוּ פָּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד

And he made the washbasin and its base of copper from the mirrors of the multitudes who massed at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.

רש"י על שמות פרק לח פסוק ח

ח **במראת הצובאת** - בנות ישראל היו בידן מראות שרואות בהן כשהן מתקשטות ואף אותן לא עכבו מלהביא לנדבת המשכן והיה מואס משה בהן מפני שעשויים ליצר הרע א"ל הקב"ה קבל כי אלו חביבין עלי מן הכל שעל ידיהם העמידו הנשים צבאות רבות במצרים כשהיו בעליהם יגעים בעבודת פרך היו הולכות ומוליכות להם מאכל ומשתה ומאכילות אותם ונוטלות המראות וכל אחת רואה עצמה עם בעלה במראה ומשדלתו בדברים לומר אני נאה ממך ומתוך כך מביאות לבעליהן לידי תאוה ונזקקות להם ומתעברות ויולדות שם

Mirrors of the multitudes - The daughters of Israel possessed mirrors which they would look into to beautify themselves, and even those mirrors they didn't withhold from donation to the Mishkan. This was disgusting in the eyes of Moshe because the mirrors had been used for accomplishing the ends of the Evil Inclination.

HASHEM said to Moshe, "Accept them because these are more precious to me than all the others (donations). Through these, the women established many multitudes in Egypt. When their husbands were weary from backbreaking work, the women would go out to their husbands and bring them food and drink. Then they would take the mirrors, and each one would show her husband the image of herself alongside him and entice him with words, saying, 'I am more attractive than you.' Through this they would bring their husbands to desire, and would have relations with them, become pregnant and give birth there."