

## Heavy lifting

Shemot 31.18-33.11

18. And he gave to Moses, when he finished talking with him upon Mount Sinai, two tablets of Testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God. 32.1. And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mount, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, Arise, make us gods, which shall go before us; and as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what became of him. 2. And Aaron said to them, Take off the golden ear rings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them to me. 3. And all the people took off the golden ear rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4. And he received them from their hand, and fashioned with a graving tool a molten calf; and they said, These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt. 5. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord. 6. And they rose up early on the next day, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. 7. And the Lord said to Moses, Go down; for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves; 8. They have turned aside quickly from the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, These are your gods, O Israel, which have brought you out of the land of Egypt. 9. And the Lord said to Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people; 10. Now therefore let me alone, that my anger may burn hot against them, and that I may consume them; and I will make of you a great nation. 11. And Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said, Lord, why does your anger burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

18 וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־מֹשֶׁה פְּכֻלָּתוֹ לְדַבֵּר אֹתוֹ בְּהַר  
סִינַי שְׁנֵי לְוָזוֹת הָעֵדוּת לְוָזוֹת אֲבָן פְּתוּבִים  
בְּאֶצְבַּע אֱלֹקִים: 32.1 וַיֵּרָא הָעָם כִּי־בִשְׁעֵי  
מֹשֶׁה לָּרְדוֹת מִן־הַהָר וַיִּקְהַל הָעָם  
עַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו קוּם | עֲשֵׂה־לָּנוּ  
אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יֵלְכוּ לְפָנֵינוּ כִּי־זֶה | מֹשֶׁה  
הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֵעֲלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא  
יָדַעְנוּ מַה־הָיָה לוֹ: 2 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אַהֲרֹן  
פָּרְקוּ גְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּאַזְנֵי גְשֵׁיכֶם  
בְּנֵיכֶם וּבְנֹתֵיכֶם וְהָבִיאוּ אֵלָי: 3 וַיִּתְּפְּרְקוּ  
כָּל־הָעָם אֶת־גְּזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּאַזְנֵיהֶם  
וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל־אַהֲרֹן: 4 וַיִּקְחוּ מֵיָדָם וַיַּזְרֹ אֹתוֹ  
בַּזֹּרֶט וַיַּעֲשֵׂהוּ עֲגֹל מִסָּכָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֵעֲלוֹךְ מֵאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם: 5 וַיֵּרָא אַהֲרֹן וַיְבָן מִזְבֵּחַ לְפָנָיו  
וַיִּקְרָא אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר הַיּוֹם לַד' מִזְבֹּחַ:  
6 וַיִּשְׁפִּימוּ מִמִּזְבְּחֹת וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת וַיִּגְשׂוּ  
שְׂלָמִים וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם לֶאֱכֹל וְשָׂתוּ וַיִּקְמוּ  
לְצַחֵק:

7 וַיְדַבֵּר ד' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לְךָ־רָד כִּי שָׁחַת  
עִמָּךְ אֲשֶׁר הֵעֲלִיתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: 8 סָרוּ  
מִהָר מִן־הַדָּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתָם עֲשׂוּ לָהֶם עֲגֹל  
מִסָּכָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ־לוֹ וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־לוֹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֵעֲלוֹךְ מֵאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם: 9 וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה רְאִיתִי  
אֶת־הָעָם הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה עִם־קִשְׁיָה־עֲרָף הוּא:  
10 וְשָׂתָה הַגִּיטָה כִּי וַיִּזְרֹ־אֲפִי בָהֶם וְאֶכְלֶם  
וְאֶעֱשֶׂה אוֹתָךְ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל: 11 וַיִּזְחַל מֹשֶׁה  
אֶת־פָּנָיו ד' אֵלָהֵיו וַיֹּאמֶר לָמָּה ד' יִזְרָה  
אֶפְךָ בְּעַמָּךְ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם  
בְּכֹחַ גְּדוֹל וּבְיַד חֲזָקָה:

12. Therefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For an evil intent did he brought them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from your fierce anger, and repent of this evil against your people. 13. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give to your seed, and they shall inherit it forever. 14. And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do to his people.

15. And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand; the tablets were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. 16. And the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets. 17. And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, There is a sound like war in the camp. 18. And he said, It is not the voice of those who shout for mastery, nor is it the voice of those who cry for being overcome; but the sound of those who sing do I hear. 19. And it came to pass, as soon as he came near to the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing; and Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands, and broke them beneath the mount. 20. And he took the calf which they had made, and burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it upon the water, and made the people of Israel drink of it. 21. And Moses said to Aaron, What did this people to you, that you have brought so great a sin upon them? 22. And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are set on evil. 23. For they said to me, Make us gods, which shall go before us; and as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what became of him. 24. And I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me; then I casted it into the fire, and there came out this calf. 25. And when Moses saw that the people were naked; for Aaron had made them naked to their shame among their enemies;

12 לָמָּה יֹאמְרוּ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר בְּרָעָה הוֹצִיאָם לְהַרְגָם אֹתָם בְּהָרִים וּלְכַלְתֵּם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה שׁוּב מִזְרוֹן אַפְּךָ וְהִנָּחֵם עַל-הָרָעָה לְעַמְּךָ: 13 זְכוֹר לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדֶּיךָ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לָהֶם בְּךָ וַתְּדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם אֲרָבָה אֶת-זַרְעֲכֶם כְּכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכָל-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי אֲתָן לְזַרְעֲכֶם וְנָחֳלוּ לְעַלְמֵם: 14 וַיִּנָּחֵם ד' עַל-הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר לַעֲשׂוֹת לְעַמּוֹ:

15 וַיִּפֹּן וַיֵּרֵד מֹשֶׁה מִן-הָהָר וּשְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הָעֵדוּת בְּיָדוֹ לְחוֹת כְּתוּבִים מִשְׁנֵי עֲבָרֵיהֶם מִנָּה וּמִנָּה הֵם כְּתוּבִים: 16 וְהַלְחוֹת מַעֲשֵׂה אֱלֹהִים הִמְנָה וְהַמְכָתֵב מִכְתָּב אֱלֹהִים הוּא זָרוּת עַל-הַלְחוֹת: 17 וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת-קוֹל הָעָם בְּרָעָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-מֹשֶׁה קוֹל מְלִיזֻמָּה בַּמִּינוּחָה: 18 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵין קוֹל עֲזוֹת גְּבוּרָה וְאֵין קוֹל עֲזוֹת זִלְזוּלָה קוֹל עֲזוֹת אֲנָכִי שִׁמְעִ: 19 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל-הַמִּינוּחָה וַיֵּרָא אֶת-הָעֵגֶל וּבְמוֹזְלוֹתַי וַיִּזְרוּ-אֵף מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׁלַךְ מִיָּדוֹ אֶת-הַלְחוֹת וַיִּשְׁבֹּר אֹתָם תַּחַת הָהָר: 20 וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הָעֵגֶל אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ וַיִּשְׂרַף בָּאֵשׁ וַיִּטְחֵן עַד אֲשֶׁר-דָּק וַיִּזֹּר עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׁק אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: 21 וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן מַה-עָשִׂה לָךְ הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי-הִבֵּאתָ עָלָיו זִמְטָה גְדוֹלָה: 22 וַיֹּאמֶר אַהֲרֹן אֶל-יְהוָה אֵף אֲדֹנָי אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֶת-הָעָם כִּי בָרַע הוּא: 23 וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִי עֲשֵׂה-לָנוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יִלְכוּ לִפְנֵינוּ כִּי-זֶה מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֵעֵלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מַה-הָיָה לוֹ: 24 וַאֲמַר לָהֶם לָמָּה זֶהב הִתְפַּרְקוּ וַיִּתְנוּ-לִי וְאֲשִׁלְכֵהוּ בָאֵשׁ וַיֵּצֵא הָעֵגֶל הַזֶּה:

26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come to me. And all the Levites gathered themselves together to him. 27. And he said to them, Thus said the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. 28. And the Levites did according to the word of Moses; and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. 29. For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, every man against his son, and against his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. 30. And it came to pass on the next day, that Moses said to the people, You have sinned a great sin; and now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31. And Moses returned to the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32. Yet now, if you will forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I beg you, from your book which you have written. 33. And the Lord said to Moses, Whoever has sinned against me, him will I blot from my book. 34. Therefore now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my Angel shall go before you; nevertheless in the day when I punish I will punish their sin upon them. 35. And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made. 33.1. And the Lord said to Moses, Depart, and go up, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, To your seed will I give it; 2. And I will send an angel before you; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite; 3. To a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in the midst of you; for you are a stiff-necked people; lest I consume you in the way. 4. And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned; and no man put on him his ornaments.

26 וַיִּעַמֵּד מֹשֶׁה בַּשַּׁעַר הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֹּאמֶר מִי  
לִד' אֵלַי וַיֵּאָסְפוּ אֵלָיו כָּל־בְּנֵי לֵוִי:  
27 וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם כֹּה־אָמַר ד' אֲלֵכֶי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
שִׁימוּ אִישׁ־זִרְכוֹ עַל־יָרְכוֹ עִבְרוּ וְשׁוּבוּ  
מִשַּׁעַר לְשַׁעַר בַּמַּחֲנֶה וְהִרְגוּ  
אִישׁ־אֶת־אָחִיו וְאִישׁ אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ וְאִישׁ  
אֶת־קָרְבוֹ: 28 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי־לֵוִי כַדְבָר מֹשֶׁה  
וַיַּפֵּל מִן־הָעָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כֶּשֶׁלֶשֶׁת אֲלָפֵי  
אִישׁ: 29 וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מִלְּאֵו יָדְכֶם הַיּוֹם  
לִד' כִּי אִישׁ בָּבְטָו וּבְאָחִיו וּלְתַת עֲלֵיכֶם  
הַיּוֹם בְּרָכָה: 30 וַיְהִי מַמְחֹרָת וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה  
אֶל־הָעָם אַתֶּם זָזַתֶּם וְזָזַתֶּם גְּדֹלָה וְעַתָּה  
אֵעֲלֶה אֶל־יְד' אוֹכְלֵי אֲכַפְרָה בְּעַד  
זָזַתְכֶם: 31 וַיָּשׁוּב מֹשֶׁה אֶל־ד' וַיֹּאמֶר  
אָנָּה זָזַתָּ הָעָם הַזֶּה זָזַתָּה גְדֹלָה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ  
לָהֶם אֱלֹהֵי זָהָב: 32 וְעַתָּה אִם־תִּשָּׂא  
זָזַתְכֶם וְאִם־אֵין מוֹנְנִי זָא מִסְפָּרְךָ אֲשֶׁר  
כָּתַבְתָּ: 33 וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה מִי אֲשֶׁר  
זָזַתָּ לִי אֲמוֹנֹתַי מִסְפָּרִי: 34 וְעַתָּה לֶךְ | גְּנוּזָה  
אֶת־הָעָם אֶל־אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לֶךְ הַנֶּה מִלְּאָכֵי  
יֶלֶךְ לְפָנֶיךָ וּבַיּוֹם פִּקְדֵי וַיַּקְדַּתִּי עֲלֵהֶם  
זָזַתְכֶם: 35 וַיִּגַּף ד' אֶת־הָעָם עַל־אֲשֶׁר  
עָשׂוּ אֶת־הָעֵלֶל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱהָרֹן:  
33.1 וַיִּדְבַר ד' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֶךְ עֲלֶה מִזֶּה  
אֶתָּה וְהָעָם אֲשֶׁר הָעֲלִיתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם  
אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר זָשַׁעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק  
וּלְיַעֲקֹב לֵאמֹר לְזָרְעֶךָ אֶתְנַנֶּה: 2 וְשִׁלְחוֹתַי  
לְפָנֶיךָ מִלְּאָךְ וַגִּרְשֹׁתַי אֶת־הַכְּנַעֲנִי הָאֲמֹרִי  
וְהַחִוִּיתִי וְהַפְרָזִי הַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוּסִי: 3 אֶל־אֶרֶץ  
זָבַת זָחָל וְדָבֶשׁ כִּי לֹא אֵעֲלֶה בְּקִרְבְּךָ כִּי  
עַם־קָשִׁי־עֲרָף אַתָּה פֶּן־אֲכַלְךָ בְּדַרְךָ:  
4 וַיִּשְׁמַע הָעָם אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַרָע הַזֶּה  
וַיִּתְאַבְּלוּ וְלֹא־שָׁתוּ אִישׁ עֲדָיו עֲלָיו:

5. For the Lord had said to Moses, Say to the people of Israel, You are a stiff-necked people; I will come up into the midst of you in a moment, and consume you; therefore take off your ornaments from you, that I may know what to do to you. 6. And the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb. 7. And Moses took the Tent, and pitched it outside the camp, far away from the camp, and called it the Tent of Meeting. And it came to pass, that every one who sought the Lord went out to the Tent of Meeting, which was outside the camp. 8. And it came to pass, when Moses went out to the Tent, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the Tent. 9. And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the Tent, the pillar of cloud descended, and stood at the door of the Tent, and the Lord talked with Moses. 10. And all the people saw the pillar of cloudy stand at the Tent door; and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. 11. And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he turned again into the camp; but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not from the Tent.

5 וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אָמֹר  
אֶל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתֶּם עַם־קָשִׁי־עֲרֹף רָגַע  
אֲנִי אֵלֵךְ בְּקִרְבְּךָ וְכִלְיֶיךָ וְעַתָּה הִנְרֵד  
עֲדִיךָ מֵעֲלֶיךָ וְאִדְעָה מָה אֲעֲשֶׂה־לָּךְ:  
6 וַיִּתְנַצְּלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־עֲלֵיהֶם מִהַר  
זוֹרֵב: 7 וּמֹשֶׁה יָקַח אֶת־הָאֹהֶל וְנִטְהֵלֹ |  
מִחוּץ לַמִּוֹצֵה הַרְוֹחַ מִן־הַמִּוֹצֵה וְקָרָא לוֹ  
אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהָיָה כָּל־מִבְקֵשׁ ד' יֵצֵא  
אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר מִחוּץ לַמִּוֹצֵה:  
8 וְהָיָה כִּשְׂמַת מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָאֹהֶל יִקְוּמוּ  
כָּל־הָעָם וְנִצְבּוּ אִישׁ פֶּתַח אֹהֶלוֹ וְהִבִּיטוּ  
אֲחֵרֵי מֹשֶׁה עַד־בָּאוּ הָאֹהֶל: 9 וְהָיָה כִּשְׂבֹ  
מֹשֶׁה הָאֹהֶל יָרַד עֲמֹד הָעֶנָן וְעָמַד פֶּתַח  
הָאֹהֶל וַדַּבֵּר עִם־מֹשֶׁה: 10 וְרָאָה כָּל־הָעָם  
אֶת־עָמֹד הָעֶנָן עָמַד פֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וְקָם  
כָּל־הָעָם וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ אִישׁ פֶּתַח אֹהֶלוֹ:  
11 וַדַּבֵּר ד' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה פָּנִים אֶל־פָּנִים  
כַּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹר אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ וְשָׁב  
אֶל־הַמִּוֹצֵה וּמִשְׁרָתוֹ יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן־נוּן גָּעַר  
כֹּל יָמִישׁ מִתּוֹךְ הָאֹהֶל: