

בההעלותך

וייהי העם כמתאווננים [11,1] The Meforshim offer different explanations what exactly the Bnei Yisrael were complaining about. Rashi and Sforno write that they complained that they were weary from traveling. The Ramban writes that since they were leaving civilization and wouldn't find the comforts they had by Har Sinai, they were feeling deprived, and therefore, complained. Chazal tell us that these were only excuses to distance themselves from Hashem. We all know that the Jews who lived in those times were great people, a **דור דעה**. They witnessed **יציאת מצרים** and **מתן תורה**, and all the multitude of miracles that **ה'** performed. Bearing this in mind, it is understood that all criticism against them was relative to their **מדרגה**. But even so, how is this behavior even possible by such great people?

Rav Dessler explains in Michtav M'elياهو vol. 4 pg. 182, that the root cause comes from a lack of being completely subservient to the will of Hashem. They wanted to retain in a sense, their own self independence and desires. Feeling tired and weary from traveling is a normal feeling that even great people may experience. However, they should have immediately overcome that feeling and deferred to the will of **ה'**. To express that feeling in a complaint was not appropriate for people of their stature, and it indicated a certain lack of **ביטול** to the **רצון ה'**.

This kind of criticism can only be for people who, like the **דור המדבר**, were on a very high **מדרגה**. However, on a practical level, we can incorporate this idea into our daily lives as well. Especially during davening, we should strive to become completely reliant on the will of **ה'** and recognize that no other being can help us except Hashem. By doing so, we can attain a more meaningful davening and Hashem will respond in kind.

Have a good Shabbos

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