Are we there yet?! Several times on a long car ride, an impatient child is bound to ask a frustrated parent whether they have arrived at their destination. It’s not easy sitting through a long car ride, even with all the distractions available today. After asking about their arrival time every half hour, and receiving dissatisfactory answers, this poor child has just had enough.

We too went on a long journey into a scolding hot Sinai desert, and like the impatient child asked when we were going to reach the promised land. At the time, the challenges of the desert with a lack of water and food were too impactful to our day to day lives, that we too were the restless child who had enough. At times we demanded ‘enough of the desert - we’d prefer Egypt’! We declared ‘enough is enough’ when our fearless leader Moshe arrived a day late, leading us to create a golden calf. We had enough when the spies came back to us with a negative report about the promised land we previously had longed for.

These moments of ‘enough’ reflect being knee deep in the moments of difficulty. When we are inside a narrow place, enough is our way of saying we cannot handle this anymore. Enough means, we are full of frustration and simply will not wait any longer. Many have felt this way throughout this challenging period of social isolation. Perhaps we’ve screamed enough once or twice, as we too are knee deep in these difficult waters.

There is another ‘enough’, however, as we say--Dayeinu ‘that would have been enough.’ ‘Enough’ is no longer a statement of frustration, but rather appreciation. As we left Egypt and began our treacherous journey through the desert, each day seemed like 40 years. Once we reached the promised land, we were able for the first time to reflect on that journey and see the guiding hand of Hashem throughout the way.

There is a profound lesson here about challenging moments. While in the time of pain and crisis it is very normal and understandable to feel the pain is unbearable. However, once we have emerged from that time, with the power of hindsight we can actually come to appreciate many of the kindnesses that we received along the way.

Write one personal line of Dayenu.

Submit Your Answers
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