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שמי

שבועות

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שערי צדק תש"מ

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Passover is known as the festival of our freedom, marking the Exodus, when we were freed from Egyptian slavery. This was only physical liberation. True freedom was realized on Shavuot with the acceptance of the Torah. As our Sages teach, "The only free man is he who is devoted to the Torah!"

Many people question this, wondering how total subjugation to the Torah can be equated to complete freedom. But the concept is not that difficult. Nothing in the world is truly free. Natural phenomena are bound by laws of nature. And there are laws and rules—natural and man made that govern both the individual and society. Further, a man ruled by his passions is also in no sense free. No creature is free to do what he desires.

In the final analysis, only G-D is truly free, for only He can do as He chooses at any time with no restraints. Man in search of freedom must seek association with G-D, and his only link to G-D is through Torah—G-D's word. Therefore, ultimate freedom can only be realized through total devotion to Torah.

With the first Pesach, the Israelites had their first taste of freedom. They then eagerly counted the days until they would gain total, absolute freedom, through receiving and accepting the Torah.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!!