

Text:

Moses said to Aaron, "Approach the Altar...."

[Leviticus 9:7]

"Approach the Altar" – for Aaron was embarrassed and afraid to step forward. Moses said to him, "Why are you embarrassed? You were chosen for this!"

[Rashi Ibid]

Question:

If Aaron was frightened and ashamed, Moses should have addressed his fear. Instead, all he did was reiterate his instructions to step forward and perform the service. How did this help?

Answer:

Aaron was hampered, not by a logical challenge, but by an emotional obstacle. Moses understood that the best strategy was not to address the issue, but to focus on Aaron's responsibility: do your job, and things will fall into place.

Message:

The Yetzer Hara – Evil Inclination – tries to overwhelm us with fear and insecurity. Our instinct is to argue back – but by doing so, we are playing right into his hands. Rather than allowing our fears to give us pause, let us focus on what we need to do. Our fears may not disappear, but neither will they stop us from meeting the challenges of life with joy and courage.