

**EMPOWERMENT****By: Rabbi Yosef Vogel****YITRO****Shevat 22, 5773**

We all try to overwhelm our friends with our personal thoughts and feelings. In all our interactions with the people we encounter it is our own view point born by personal experience that shapes our conversation. We generally seek to impose our vision and ideas on others.

In this week's Torah portion we read the account of the single most influential event in our history. The revelation of G-d at Mount Sinai. However notwithstanding what seems to be a momentous imposition of G-d onto the Jewish people and indirectly on the rest of mankind. An extraordinary lesson to the contrary is derived by the preface to this great story.

Before the narrative of this grand event begins we are introduced to a dialogue between Moses and his father in law regarding delegation of authority and responsibility. It is here that we are introduced to one of the greatest insights into the nature and purpose of the revelation at Mount Sinai.

Every human being is inherently good and therefore given the right opportunity will want to behave accordingly. Not to recognise that in people is not to trust them, which in turn will evoke within them a negative response. Consequently, it is both unnecessary and counterproductive to impose our own ideas or regulation upon people.

Rather one should acknowledge the unique qualities and contribution of every individual. Encourage their development and growth. Show and enable them how to take control of their own lives and eventually how to impact and make a difference in the lives of others.

It is this vision of empowerment that is the most significant in G-ds great vision which he shared with the Jewish people at mount Sinai thousands of years ago and to the degree that we empower others by putting them in touch with their unique inner vision and purpose, that we will gain clearer insight into that all encompassing vision we were shown many years ago at Mount Sinai.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Feb****Sedra: Yitro****Shabbat Begins: 4.35pm****Shabbat Ends: 5.41pm**