



# Erev Shavuot

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# The Talmud:

“ On Sivan 2 Moses ascended and descended;  
On Sivan 3 he ascended and descended;  
On Sivan 4 he ascended and descended;  
On Sivan 5 he erected an altar  
and offered a sacrifice”.

(Tractate Shabbos, 88a)

# Rebbe's Questions:

1

Why no mention of other important events of the day: *naaseh v'nishma*, Covenant?

2

Why did Moses build altar & offer sacrifice himself?

3

Why didn't Moses ascend Mt Sinai on that day?

4

“Daily offering, initiated at Mt Sinai” (Numbers 28:6). But it's pre-Sinai?!

# Rebbe's Explanation

Erev Shavuot – extension into Shavuot domain

## Parallel Examples:



**Erev Shabbat –  
extension into Shabbat:**

- Just before: “Addition to Shabbat” holiness
- From Mid-Day: No Confession prayer
- Entire Day: Called Erev Shabbat



**Erev Pesach –  
time of Pesach  
(offering)**



**Every Erev Yom Tov:**

- No Confession prayer
- No fasting & eulogies

# Digging Deeper:

Why is pre-Sinai holiness expressed in Altar & Sacrifice?

Explanation:



Sinai = HaShem permeating physical.



Expressed in Altar & Sacrifice.



Explains why Moses didn't ascend that day.

# Power of Mitzvah:

| Pre-Sinai                               | vs. | Post-Sinai                                |
|---|-----|---|
| Spiritual connection                    |     | Actually impact physical                  |
| Like music & art                        |     | Like food & medicine                      |
| Intention is paramount                  |     | Action is paramount                       |
| Abraham's kindness to angels            |     | Poor finds lost money                     |
| Examples: Antenna,<br>aroma, photograph |     | Examples: Real, "cookie",<br>"hair locks" |

# Bamidbar–Shavuot Connection:

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Torah was given in a desert



desert-like abandon of ego



Torah is ‘ownerless’



Goal of Sinai: Godliness to permeate lowest place

# Let's Review:



Talmud: pre-Sinai  
sequence of events



Sivan 5: Why  
emphasize Moses'  
Altar & Sacrifice?



Significance of  
pre-Sinai offering?



Erev Shavuot =  
extension into Shavuot



Examples of  
Pesach and Shabbat



Altar & Sacrifice =  
Godliness touching down



Mitzvot: Pre-Sinai  
vs Post-Sinai



Bamidbar -  
Shavuot connection