

A Thought for Shabbat

Rabbi Richard Steinberg



Shabbat Shalom

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In this week's Torah portion, *Beshalach*, God has had enough of Pharaoh's enslavement of the Israelites, so God and Moses lead the Jewish people to the shore of the sea. Moses lifts his hands and by the power of God, the sea opens. The Israelites cross and freedom is found. The Torah states, "Then Moses held out his arm over the sea and the Lord drove back the sea with a strong east wind all that night, and turned the sea into dry ground."

The Torah is careful to say that Moses lifted his arm but that in fact, it was God's power that caused the waters to part. While this story indicates God's omnipotence to create miracles, the underlying statement of Moses lifting his arm suggests that God cannot perform miracles alone—God requires human beings to do their part.

A surgeon's hands are the human participation in a Godly miracle. A mother's hug is the human participation in a Godly miracle. A person who brings themselves out of poverty, a child who overcomes adversity, a Holocaust survivor, a ill person who sees the cup of life as half full, a inspiring teacher, a loving spouse, an act of Tzedakah—these are all the human participation in the miracles of the Holy One. We were created in God's image, but that image must be actualized by us for it to come forth. You can create miracles every day—do your part!