

## **“You shall place in the Aron the Testimonial - tablets that I shall give you.” (25:16)**

In the *Talmud Megillah* 10b, *Chazal* relate that the *Aron Ha’kodesh* was not included in the measurements of the *Bais HaMikdash*. Due to its spiritual nature, it did not occupy any physical space. The *Kodshei Ha’kodoshim* measured twenty *amos* by twenty *amos*. The *Aron* had twenty *amos* of space on each side of it. Now, where did the *Aron* stand? This proves that the *Aron* miraculously took up no space. One would think that if such a miracle was done for the *Aron* which was solely a repository for the *Torah* and the *Luchos*, then the *Torah* and *Luchos* which are on a higher plane of spiritual sanctity, would certainly have such a miracle performed for “them.” Yet, as *Chazal* say in the *Talmud Bava Basra* 14a, the *Torah* and the *Luchos* filled the *Aron* to capacity. Why was the miracle performed for the *Aron* and not for the *Torah* and the *Luchos*?

*Horav Moshe Feinstein, z.l.*, derives from here an important lesson. Each Jew is to make himself like the *Aron Ha’kodesh* – filled to capacity with *Torah*. Thus, if he does not maximize his capacity for studying *Torah*, he will leave a void, an empty space within his personal *aron* which should have been replete with *Torah*. On the other hand, once he has studied *Torah* to his capacity, he must leave over room outside of himself, never attributing self-importance to himself. In other words, while internally he is filled, externally he does not take up any space in the world. In his humility, he should realize that his essence is entirely spiritual, having no connection to the dimension of the physical world.