

## **"And Hashem spoke to Moshe and Aharon and commanded them concerning the Bnei Yisroel." (6:13)**

*Rashi* explains that Hashem commanded Moshe and Aharon to lead the *Bnei Yisroel* with gentleness and patience. The *Midrash* emphasizes the responsibility of a leader in stronger terms: "Hashem said to Moshe and Aharon, my children are stubborn and recalcitrant, they are quick to anger, and they are troublesome. It is under these conditions that you should accept leadership over them, even if they should curse you, even if they should stone you." This *Midrash* portrays the image of a Jewish leader. On one hand, a leader must not falter under pressure from the people. Even if they "curse" or "stone" him, he must remain staunch and steadfast, not allowing himself to be coerced into acting in a manner that is antithetical to *Torah* values. Yet, he must be patient and forbearing, no matter how annoying and difficult people may be. A Jewish leader is molded from a special fabric; one that is strong and unwavering in his commitment to *Torah* values, but at the same time, gentle and patient in his relationship with his followers.