

Send by the hand of whomever You will send. (4:13)

Rashi comments: “By the hand of he whom You are accustomed to send as Your messenger.” This refers to Aharon *HaKohen*, who heretofore was Hashem’s emissary and leading spiritual leader of the enslaved Jews in Egypt. Moshe *Rabbeinu* was reluctant to accept the leadership position of *Klal Yisrael*, lest he infringe in any way upon his older brother’s current role as leader. *Horav Shneur Kotler, zl*, related (as quoted by the *Tolner Rebbe, Shlita*) that his father, the venerable architect to Torah in America, *Horav Aharon Kotler, zl*, had, throughout his life, never been bested by anyone (his vast erudition in Torah was without peer), except once when a *chassidic* Jew got the better of him.

The *Rosh Yeshivah* explained, “I was once traveling to a meeting. I chanced upon a book of stories about the *Saintly Horav Bunim, zl, m’Peshischa*. This book quoted the *Peshischa* as saying that during his youth, he had the ability to bring *Moshiach*. He refrained from engaging in this lofty spiritual endeavor, because it might cause a *chalishus hadaas*, weakening of one’s faculties (a crushing and debilitating distress), to the *tzaddik hador*, most righteous leader of the generation, *Horav Yehoshua Heschel, zl, m’Apta*. (He was a disciple of the *Noam Elimelech* and author of the *Ohaiv Yisrael*.) Bunim Aptarker (the pharmacist – which was his vocation before he was revealed as the great *Rebbe* that he became), could, however, bring about the advent of *Moshiach*, while the holy *Apter Rav* did not succeed, despite toiling diligently his entire life to do so.

Rav Aharon continued, “This statement bothered me, and, at the meeting that I attended, which included many Jews representing the broad spectrum of observant Jewry, I presented the question that troubled me: “If the *Peshischa* was able to bring *Moshiach*, what right did he have to refrain, simply because it would cause the *Apter* to have emotional distress?” Suddenly, a *chassidic* Jew arose and pointed out to me that our quintessential leader, Moshe *Rabbeinu*, refused to accept *Klal Yisrael’s* leadership, because it would cause his older brother distress. Indeed, Hashem responded to Moshe’s demurment, saying, “Aharon will be overjoyed to see you ascend to a position of greatness.”