

In this week's Parashah of Chukat, we read one of the most well-known parts of the Torah – when Moshe strikes the rock instead of speaking to it. This week's NLI resource features a Rosh HaShanah card depicting this very scene in front of the rock.

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Parashat Chukat
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in conjunction with NLI

WATER FROM THE ROCK



This New Year card from the beginning of the 20th century, shows Moshe hitting the rock with his stick. As a result of his actions, water can be seen bursting from the rock, and the Children of Israel who are near Moshe are filling their vessels from the flowing water.

The corners of the Shanah Tovah cards are decorated with flowers, as was customary at that time. On the upper part of the postcard appears the inscription in German: "Moses schlägt den Felsen" meaning "Moshe hitting the rock". The lower part of the postcard contains the caption in German and Hebrew 'May you be written for a good year'.

Rays of Light?

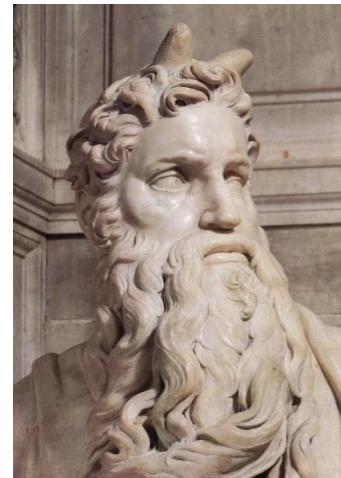
The New Year card above shows Moshe with rays coming out from his head. Michelangelo's famous 'Moses' sculpture shows Moshe to have horns. What is the connection between these two ideas, and what is their origin?

In the Torah, Shemot 34:30, when Moshe returns to Bnei Yisrael holding the Ten Commandments, it says:

"וְהִנֵּה קָרֵן עֹור פָּנָיו"

"And behold, the skin of his face was shining".

The Hebrew word **קרן** (keren), meaning 'shining' – when written without vowels - is the same word as the Hebrew for 'horn'. This gave rise to the misunderstanding that Moshe had horns coming out his head, rather than that his face was shining with rays of light.



Activities:

Something to discuss

Look at the NLI picture overleaf. Which event is being shown in the picture?



This picture was chosen by the artist to be used for a New Year card. Is this a good choice? Why do you think this?

The picture shows Bnei Yisrael filling up their cups with water. How had they been accessing water prior to this event?

Choose a shiny stone, rock or pebble from the garden and decorate it with your own picture of Moshe striking the rock. You can then varnish it to make it shiny.

Play Rock, Paper, Scissors.

See if you can find these words in the wordsearch.

V	J	F	J	F	K	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	N
L	E	A	M	G	M	V	S	J	D	V	D	T	C	F
V	N	J	E	R	R	U	M	T	H	E	G	L	M	R
R	P	G	K	U	D	H	U	Y	A	F	S	H	M	O
L	O	F	U	M	R	G	A	A	G	F	Z	E	U	C
I	U	D	Q	B	T	W	A	T	E	R	F	Y	R	K
V	R	Q	T	L	W	Y	F	T	M	O	S	E	S	T
E	R	C	K	E	C	A	S	Q	U	E	M	K	X	S
S	M	F	O	N	N	R	L	V	J	U	C	S	L	S
T	O	V	H	M	I	I	H	K	U	P	R	C	Y	S
O	D	C	Z	H	P	K	L	F	J	E	E	E	K	N
C	R	R	T	A	W	L	O	E	D	T	N	Q	T	Y
K	V	Z	I	X	A	X	A	L	Z	H	S	R	T	J
U	Q	J	D	N	R	T	E	I	V	N	W	P	J	B
Y	L	U	Z	R	K	C	R	G	N	K	N	T	C	S

DRINK
LIVESTOCK
STAFF

COMPLAIN
ELDERS
WALK
POUR
CHILDREN
NILE

ROCK
GRUMBLE
WATER
DESERT
THIRST
MOSES