

Balack Parsha and Lashon Hokodesh Summary

Balack, the King of Moab saw that B'nei Israel was coming towards his borders. He was afraid of a fight and that he wouldn't win. So he called on Ballam to curse B'nei Israel. It took a lot of convincing, but he agreed to go. As he was traveling, G-d sought to stop him, by sending an angel with a sword. Ballam's donkey sought to save Ballam so the angel wouldn't kill him. Ballam, not being able to see the angel, hit the donkey, telling it to move forward. This happened two more times, until G-d gave the donkey the ability to speak. The donkey said to Ballam, "that she has never taken him off of the road before, so why was he beating her now?" G-d then uncovered his eyes so that he could see the angel. The angel spoke to Ballam saying how he didn't approve of what he was going to do., and the donkey was protecting him. But Ballam continued. As Ballam looked out from the top of the mountain, and opened his mouth to curse B'nei Israel, but what came out was praise of the Israelites, "Ma-tovu-oha-leicha Ya'akov".

Lashon Hokodesh, is camp's central theme of the summer. It can be as literal as omitting curse words from your daily vocabulary, or incorporating more Hebrew in your bunk. Its meaning is "holy tongue", to speak holy.