

Parashat V'Zot HaBerakhah

Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

OCTOBER 18, 2019



SUMMARY

In this Torah portion--the last in the whole Torah--Moshe gives the tribes of Israel a final blessing and dies at the age of 120. The Israelites mourn and begin to follow Yehoshu'a, their new leader.

From Our Commentators:

Rashi--

על פי ה' בְּנִשְׁקָה
BY THE , MOUTH OF
THE A-DONAI — with a
(Divine) kiss

ויקבר אותו אם הוא
קבר את עצמו בדברי
קצתם ז"ל עשתה זאת
נפשו הנבדלת כי הוא
מת בהר ראש הפסגה
שמשם ראה את הארץ

AND HE BURIED

HIM If Moshe buried himself, as is the opinion of some of our commentators, it would have been his disembodied soul that did this, for he died on the summit of the mountain Pisgah from which he viewed the Holy Land

For Discussion:

- 1) This Shabbat we read the *parasha* including the very final chapter of Torah, in which we read that Moshe died "עַל-פִּי ה'" --"on" or "at the mouth of G!d". What do you imagine this might have looked like?
- 2) If we believe that Moshe wrote the Torah--as the Torah told us he did 2 weeks ago--and the Torah describes how Moshe died at the top of Mt. Nevo. Then how could Moshe have written the verses describing his own death and how sad it made the Israelites?
- 3) Right after Moshe dies, the next verse begins, "And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moav." The Torah then tells us that nobody knows Moshe's burial place to this very day. It never says who buried Moshe! So--who do you think it might have been? And why might G!d have not wanted us to know the precise place where Moshe was buried?