



Parashat Devarim

In this week's parasha, Moshe gathered the people together and explained the entire Torah to them. Rashi explains that Moshe taught them the Torah in seventy languages. The Chidushai Harim asks why it was necessary to teach the Torah in all the languages. He explains that Hashem knew the Jewish people would eventually be scattered throughout the world among many nations and they would study the Torah in many languages. The teaching of Torah in each language made room, so to speak for each language with the result that the influence of the Torah could be received in some measure among the nations.

Coupled with this great opportunity for spreading the light of Torah among the nations, there is the ever present danger that those who spread it may be lost to their own heritage. In our life, among the societies of the world, we must constantly remind ourselves that even as we adapt to our surroundings and learn the languages of the host culture, we must never lose sight of who we are.

Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Roth

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