

What Really Happened While Moses Was on the Mount - by KH member Linda Milberg

The women gathered together as Moses prepared to leave. He was nervous about leaving his flock for such a long time and had a list of last-minute instructions... the do's and don'ts of successful communal living . The women tried to reassure him that they would be fine but still... this was the first time he had left them in the 3 months since they had crossed the sea of reeds. Still muttering to himself that this was a bad idea. That his people were not ready. Their faith not strong enough Moses started on his journey up the mountain.

The men were huddled together whispering and wondering what was next now that Aaron was in charge. Would there still be manna to eat and fresh water to drink? Were they to just sit around waiting for Moses to return from his mysterious errand? Change, this was big change and they had had enough of that. Egypt was looking better and better. At least there they knew what to expect. Here they had no purpose except to wander around waiting for what? To be led to a promised land by who exactly? And when was this supposed to happen? Anxiety was mounting. All the men were on high alert. There were too many unanswered questions.

Aaron suggested that they should pray. But one of the more outspoken men said Pray to who? To a god that only Moses can see? A god who turned day into endless night? Who brought plagues upon the land? This is a scary god. Who knows what we might do to anger him? Let's fashion a god who isn't so scary. One that we can see and touch. One that won't offend the god of Moses and at the same time make us feel better. While Aaron did not think this was the best idea, he understood the need for the men to do something, anything to take away that free floating anxiety. And so, they began the process.

And what were the women doing while this conversation was happening between the men? The women had babies to tend, clothes to mend and were overseeing the needs of the camp. Perhaps the women saw the miracles happening every day as babies were born, children grew up, living without the threat of their children being killed or enslaved. Perhaps that was enough for them. When they saw all of that, faith in the god of Moses came easily to them.