

June 15, 2013 – Chukkat

This sidrah contains a number of stories: the Red Cow (or Red Heifer); the death of Miriam and the community's subsequent lack of water; the death of Aaron. But we spent most of our time on the text's description of Moses being told by God that he would not enter the Promised Land. The reason given is that, when the Israelites were out of water, Moses struck the rock from which God said that water would issue when God only wanted Moses to speak to it. But, we asked ourselves, what made that the precipitating incident? Were there possibly other reasons, and what could they be? A number of theories were put forward, and of course, as with all Torah study, no conclusions were reached.