

## Easy Does It

In this week's *Torah* portion *Emor*, *Moshe* gives instructions to the *Kohanim* about their additional responsibilities. In giving the message, G-d tells *Moshe* "*Emor El Hacohanim*" (say to the *Kohanim*). The commentaries wonder why the word *emor* is used and not the common word used for commandments, *daber*? Furthermore, our sages tell us that these two words have different connotations. *Daber* connotes a strong tone or command while *emor* suggests a softer tone. Therefore, one would think in preparing the *Kohanim* for their additional responsibilities, the word *daber* would be more appropriate.

*Rav* Moshe Feinstein z"l explains the use of the softer tone is to teach us an important lesson in role modeling. *Moshe* was to impart to the *Kohanim*, that as leaders, they were to receive additional *mitzvos*. When he speaks to the *Kohanim* using a soft tone, the tone itself as well as its words is delivering a message. The soft tone illustrates that leaders need to take things in stride and make it look easy to accomplish whatever is needed to be done. This calm can-do attitude strengthens everyone around the leader and enables all participants to live up to their responsibilities as well. A more demanding approach is generally not so effective.

In life we try to teach lessons and values to our children and students. When doing so, we need to remind ourselves of how we speak when role modeling. More often than not, better results come not from a stronger and demanding tone, but from the softer and more encouraging tone. As the saying goes, *Easy Does It*.