

# TORAH WEEKLY

Denver KOLLEL

CELEBRATING  
**25**  
years  
OF TORAH GROWTH  
TOGETHER

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## Naturally Miraculous

By: Rabbi Mordechai Mandel (Originally Published 2011)

A king ordered a highly skilled craftsman to create a statue of his magnificent royal horse. It was to be displayed in the center of town for all to see. After months of work, the sculpture was complete and was placed in the marketplace for all to admire. Realizing that no one took notice of the beautiful masterpiece made the king extremely perturbed. "This piece of art is an extraordinarily perfect imitation of the royal horse. Why is it overlooked by all the townspeople?" wondered the king. "The sculpture is so realistic," exclaimed his advisor, "that it looks like an actual horse, and that is why no one pays attention to it! "Cut it in half, and everyone will surely notice it." The king did just that, and the beautiful sculpture indeed became the talk of the town, as everyone enjoyed its magnificence.

Says the Chasam Sofer, the world we live in is made by G-d and its detail befuddles the human perception. We don't notice the beauty and perfection that exists in every blade of grass, every drop of water, and virtually every atom in the universe. Only when G-d split the sea into two did we notice and understand that all is made by Him and through His will. And only then were we able to appreciate the detail and exquisite beauty in every facet of creation.

The Ramban (Parshas Bo) relates a powerful thought which echoes this very sentiment. "One who delves into the power of a clear and open miracle will then be able to reach the level of emunah, belief, that what he considered to be part of nature is miraculous as well!"

The two verses describing Israel walking through the split sea seem to be written differently. One verse states, "The children of Israel came within the sea on dry land..." (Beshalach 14:22), while another verse states, "The children of Israel went on the dry land in the midst of the sea." (ibid. 29) The Noam Elimelech comments that initially, the Jews were amazed to find that they were walking through the sea as if it was dry land. The realization of that awesome miracle was the catalyst for them to reach a deeper level of perception of G-d's world. They now understood that the dry land that they walked on daily, and, in fact, the entire creation that they considered "natural," was as miraculous as walking within the sea!

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## Alumni Focus

Rabbi Mordechai Mandel

PAST



Rabbi Mandel's, L2L class, 2013

## 2011-2013

Years as a Denver  
Kollel Scholar

PRESENT



Rabbi Mandel, teaching in 2023

## REBBI

7th Grade,  
Yeshiva Derech Hatorah,  
Cleveland, OH

## Kollel Happenings



On Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the Kollel scholars elected to be tested by Rabbi Yosef Fund, Bochen BMG on hilchos muktza. Torah discussions continue during the Shyium