

## Think again - Seeing is Believing

Judaism is somewhat different than other cultures. Most cultures worship that which is seen. The ancient Greeks worshiped the beauty of the body and nature. Modern Western societies epitomised by the Hollywood culture worship the superficial and the whimsical beauty of everything that is shallow. Modern thought teaches us that seeing is believing. Judaism is different in that its core value is the idea that we believe in that which is heard. Our most famous prayer recited twice each day, the Shema means "Hear Oh Israel". We believe in the tune of our souls and the voice of our subconscious, we believe in the whispers of nature and we believe in the oral traditions of our culture. We believe in that which is heard. If there is a sound in the air we will intuitively pick it up because we are taught to listen to that hidden voice. We listened to the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai. God appeared to both Moses and Elijah in a hushed voice and we all listen to the story of the Hagadah on Seder night.

So if I mentioned in this here newsletter that there is a whisper going around, someone mentioned to me, I am not sure if it is the truth but there is a strong rumour going around and if there is smoke there is fire, then you would believe me if I told you .....

You would believe me if I told you something unbelievable. Take it on good authority that this falls in the realms of the unbelievable but would you believe if I told you something fantastic out of this world. Would you take my word for it as gospel the undeniable principled truth. I am not a politician so the Rabbinate still has some credibility left in what we preach. Read my lips said one famous politician. God says in this week's Parsha Ekev "And you shall surely listen....." So there would be no denying it as the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; but it is true..... The Synagogue chairs have arrived!

I did not say they were the correct chairs or the right colour or right size, I did not say that they are what we ordered but the chairs are here take it from me. The chairs have landed and are on the footpath in a container outside the synagogue. You don't have to believe me but if you come to shule this week you will see a big container on the footpath full of chairs. 400 chairs in fact. You think it was a tight squeeze before. We are going to be cosy these High Holidays. So if you have been contemplating renting a seat for the High Holidays do it now. At least you know that you will be sitting on a brand new chair. If you don't believe me then have a look at the attached picture. Believe me it is not an altered picture but if you don't believe the picture then listen to your inner voice and you will believe.

as always  
Good Shabbos and see you in shule  
Elozer Gestetner