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## NEWS & VIEWS

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## Teaching God Our Torah

By *Rabbi Mónica Gomery, Rab`17* and *Laynie Soloman, SVARA*

This week, revelation manifests as a rollercoaster in directionality, as Moses rises and falls from the base to the peak of Mount Sinai over and over again:

***“And the Lord said to Moses: “Go, descend, for your people...” (32: 7)***

***“... On the next day Moses said to the people: “You have committed a grave sin. And now I will ascend to the Lord;” (32:30)***

***“...and Moses arose early in the morning and ascended Mount Sinai” (34:4)***

***“And it came to pass when Moses descended from Mount Sinai... (34:29)***

The text seems to belabor the image, with various forms of the words “ascent” and “descent” appearing almost a dozen times in these chapters. At the base of the mountain is **eretz**, our earthly human abode, where the people stand waiting. Up the mountain is **shamayim**, the heavens—God’s domain, conveyed here as a sacred and removed location. As Moses ascends and descends the mountain, he is like a needle threading these two realms together, stitching a seam of connection between the earth of human dwelling and the summit of the divine.

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