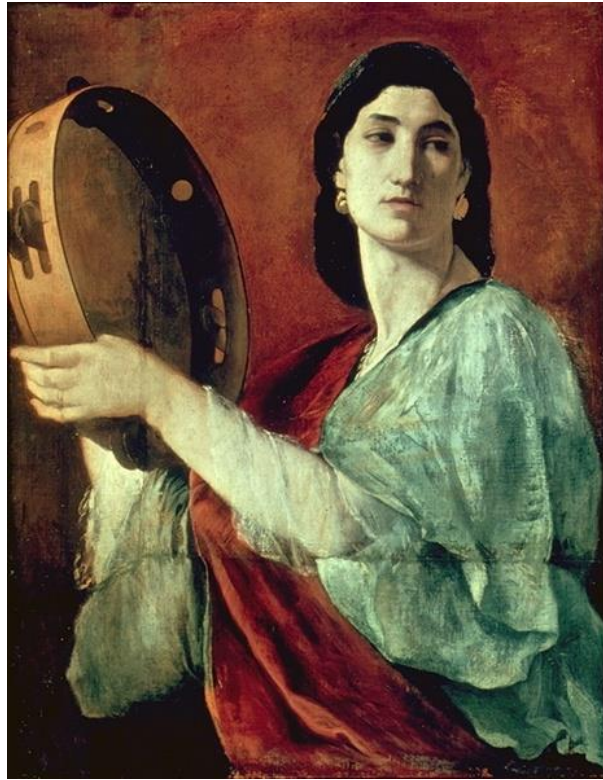


## THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

When Gossip is Toxic | Erica Brown | March 31, 2022



Anselm Feuerbach, "Mirjam" (1862)  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

### Numbers 12:1-8

וַתְּדַבֵּר מִרְיָם וְאַהֲרֹן בְּמִשְׁחֵה עַל־אַדְנוֹת הָאִשָּׁה הַכַּשִּׁית אֲשֶׁר לִמֹּחַ כַּי־אִשָּׁה כַּשִּׁית לִמֹּחַ:

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֲרַק אֹדֶי־בְּמִשְׁחֵה דְבַר יְהוָה הֲלֹא גַם־בָּנוּ דְבַר נִישְׁמַע יְהוָה:

וְהָאִישׁ מֹשֶׁה עֲגֹן מְאֹד מִכָּל־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה פְּתָאֵם אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן וְאֶל־מִרְיָם צֵאוּ שְׁלֹשְׁתֵּכֶם אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּנִצְאוּ שְׁלֹשְׁתֵּם:

וַיִּבְרַד יְהוָה בְּעַמּוּד עָנָן וַיַּעֲמֵד פֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּקְרָא אֲהֲרֹן וּמִרְיָם וַנִּצְאוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמַעוּ־נָא דְבַרִּי אִם־יְהִיֶּה נְבִיאֵכֶם יְהוָה בְּמִרְאָה אֵלָיו אֲתַנְדֵּעַ בְּחִלּוֹם אֲדַבֵּר־בּוֹ:

לֹא־כֵן עֹבְדֵי מֹשֶׁה בְּכָל־בֵּיתִי נֹאמְנוּ הוּא:

כֹּה אֶל־פִּי אֲדַבֵּר־בּוֹ וּמִרְאָה וְלֹא בַחֲזִיזוֹת וְתַמְגַּת יְהוָה יִבְטֵא וּמִדּוֹעַ לֹא יִרְאֶתֶם לְדַבֵּר בְּעַבְדֵי בְּמִשְׁחֵה:

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman he had taken [into his household as his wife]: “He took a Cushite woman!” They said, “Has God spoken only through Moses? Has [God] not spoken through us as well?” God heard it. Now Moses himself was very humble, more so than any other human being on earth. Suddenly God called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the Tent of Meeting.” So the three of them went out. God came down in a pillar of cloud, stopped at the entrance of the Tent, and called out, “Aaron and Miriam!” The two of them came forward; and [God] said, “Hear these My words: When prophets of God arise among you, I make Myself known to them in a vision, I speak with them in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; he is trusted throughout My household. With him I speak mouth to mouth, plainly and not in riddles, and he beholds the likeness of God. How then did you not shrink from speaking against My servant Moses!”

## **Reflective Question**

What’s one piece of leadership gossip that’s been toxic for you or your organization?

## **Leadership Challenge**

What is one way you can use social media to elevate your leadership?