

The Evolution of Torah
Moses in Akiva's Bet Midrash – Menahot 29b

Rabbi Yehudah said that Rav said:

When Moses went up to the heights of Sinai to receive the Torah, he saw the Holy Blessed One sitting and tying crowns to all of the letters. Moses said to Him God, "Master of the Universe, what is delaying you from giving me the Torah?"

God said to Moses, "There will be one man in the distant future by the name of Akiva ben Yosef, who will interpret mountains upon mountains from each and every jot and tittle upon the letters.

Moses said to God, "Master of the Universe, show him to me!"

God said to Moses, "Turn around." He went and sat down in the eighth row. He did not understand what they were saying and became distressed.

While Akiva was discussing a certain matter, his students said to him, "Rabbi, from where did you learn this?" Akiva said to them, "This is a teaching of Moses from Sinai." When Moses heard this, he was relieved.

Moses returned and came before the Holy Blessed One and said, "Master of the Universe, there is a great man like this, and you are giving the Torah by my hand?"

God said to Moses, "Silence! This is my plan."