

# Numbers 10:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes.

## Analysis

**Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness**—Moses appeals to Hobab's practical knowledge: **thou mayest be to us instead of eyes** (וְהָיָתָּךְ לְנוּ לְעֵינֵינוּ, wəhāyîtā lānū lə'ēnayim). This phrase acknowledges human instrumentality within divine guidance—the pillar of cloud led Israel, yet human wisdom remained valuable.

This challenges both hyper-spiritualism (ignoring practical wisdom) and rationalism (trusting only human knowledge). God often provides direction through consecrated human expertise. Moses' humility in seeking help, despite having direct divine revelation, models leadership that honors others' gifts while maintaining ultimate dependence on God's guidance.

## Historical Context

The 'wilderness' (מִדְבָּר, midbār) between Sinai and Canaan was Hobab's native territory. His Midianite knowledge of water sources, safe routes, and camping sites would prove invaluable. This occurred circa 1446-1406 BC during Israel's wilderness wandering. Moses' request shows the value of local expertise in unfamiliar terrain.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. When have you been tempted to rely solely on 'spiritual guidance' while ignoring practical wisdom God has provided through others?
2. How can you be 'eyes' for others in areas where God has given you specialized knowledge or experience?
3. What does Moses' humble request teach about leadership—even when you have divine authority?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל כִּי אַתָּה בֹּא לֹא אַלְמָא

**And he said**

H408

H4994

**Leave**

H853

H3588

H5921

H559

H5800

כִּי

לֹא שָׁפֵךְ

בְּנֵת כָּי

**us not I pray thee forasmuch as thou knowest**

H3651

H3045

**how we are to encamp**

H2583

בְּמִדְבָּר

**in the wilderness**

H4057

H1961

H0

**and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes**

H5869

לְעֵינֵינוּ

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 29:15** (Parallel theme): I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

