

Ex39-33a.

First: Let us state what Rashi ACTUALLY states.

A) The artisans tried, after building the temple utensils and cutting all boards to raise the temple but were unsuccessful

B) So they came to Moses. He also found it difficult and asked God how he could do it.

C) God responded you do what you are responsible for and I will do what I am responsible for

D) Moses grasped the boards and the they stood up by themselves. This is hinted at in the verse Ex40-17 "The temple was standed" in the passive implying the Temple went up by itself.

In explaining this I first point out the contrast

Ex40-17	...	The Temple was erected
Ex40-18	Moses	Erect the Temple

This contrasts implies that

- on the one hand Moses erected the Temple
- on the other hand the Temple was erected (Doesn't say by whom)

A simple way of resolving this is to say

- The Temple was erected by the Temple team
- Headed by Moses

Thus Moses ordered the team how to erect it and the team did it.

A similar Rashi is found on

- **Ex37-01** - Bezalel made the Ark.
- But in fact **Ex36-08** says - All craftsman made the Temple
Subsequent verses change the verb to the singular - He made.
Rashi explains that because he was supervisor credit is given to him.

Now returning to our Rashi on **Ex39-33a**. Rashi does not say Moses was supervisor. In fact he says the Temple simply got erected and no one wanted to help.

To understand this Rashi we must interpret the verse prophetically. The purpose of the Temple was to induce prophetic revelations in the nation. We pray for the erection of the 3rd Temple because through that we will re-achieve prophecy. The act of erecting the Temple induces prophecy. In fact it explicitly says in two verses

- **Ex25-08** Build me a Temple and I will dwell amongst them (that is, prophecy)
- **Lv08-23:24** explicitly says that at the consecration of the Temple, God's honor, fire-visions, descended on the nation

Now we can understand the four points of the Rashi A,B,C,D

A) The artisans many of whom sinned in the golden calf could not erect the Temple because they were afraid of a consequent prophetic vision of God's wrath

B) Moses also felt helpless. If he erected the Temple, God would revisit his wrath on the Jewish people.

C) God explained that Moses must do what he does and God will do what he does

D) Thus Moses erected the Temple (presumably with a team) and prophecy did happen but it was a good prophecy not a reminder of the golden calf.