

PARASHAT LECH-LECH- 5775, 2014

A Successful Aliyah

Many of those who make Aliyah to Eretz Yisrael out of a function of rational calculations are doomed to failure and eventually return to Chutz LaAretz. Thinking that Eretz Yisrael will somehow cure all the psychological problems that they or their children are having back at home are often crudely awakened to the reality that Israel is not the “cure all” and that things have not improved in any discernable way. People coming to Israel seeking to improve their financial status are truly disappointed and pack their belongings to head for “home” in a short period of time.

According to Rav Soloveitchik, the attitude and motivation for a successful Aliyah is found in the Aliyah of Avraham Avinu. Avraham, the faithful believer and follower of HaShem is instructed by G-d to “Go for yourself from your land, from your relatives and from your father’s house **to the land that I will show you.**” (Bereishit 12:1) Note, Avraham was not given a map or any kind of direction as to where the land he was supposed to go was located. How, then, was he to know where to go?

The Ramban, in his commentary states as follows: “Avraham wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people until he came to the land of Canaan, where HaShem said to him “To your seed will I give this land” Then the promise contained in the pasuk “to the land that I will show you” was fulfilled. “And Avraham tarried and settled there.” Clearly, the Ramban was troubled by the fact that Avraham was not give a specific destination and was therefore left confused and perplexed. Why would G-d want to bewilder and mystify him?

HaShem wanted Avraham to discover the Promised Land **intuitively**. It was essential that Avraham feel the **pull of Eretz Yisrael**. HaShem wanted Avraham to be fascinated by the land and migrate to it, just as some species of fish migrate instinctively. G-d wanted Avraham to be guided **not by logic of his mind but by the intuition of his heart**. In this way, HaShem challenged Avraham to **nurture his spiritual antennae**, his ability to distinguish between Kedusha and Chol.

Apparently, Avraham succeeded in his mission. His spiritual compass directed him to the land of Canaan. What indeed was the element responsible for Avraham’s gravitating to Eretz Canaan? In response to what stimuli did he act? The answer is the most central theme in Judaism: **Kedusha**. This was the profound discovery of Avraham Avinu.

Returning to Aliyah today. All those who make Aliyah for the sake of uplifting themselves spiritually, for sake of fulfilling a Mitzvah, for sake of being part of history, and for sake of living in a land of Kedusha have no problem with facing the challenges of Aliyah, and certainly have No intention of leaving the Holy country. Especially this year, a year of Shemita when the fruits and vegetables we consume are blessed with holiness. Just put on your spiritual antennas and listen to the buzzing of Kedusha when you arrive.