

GROWTH

At The

SHABBAT TABLE

7th Edition
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BS"D

PARSHAT LECH LECHA

Next Level Gratitude

"And Avram went up from Egypt... and he proceeded on his journeys..." (Bereshit 13:1,3). R' Weitman shared a beautiful *d'var Torah*. *Rashi* comments that Avram displayed proper *derech erez* by lodging at the same places as he did on the first trip, expressing gratitude to his hosts for their generosity and showing that their service was so good that he came back to them instead of looking for somewhere else to sleep. *Rashi* then offers a second *p'shat* as to why Avram retraced his steps: to pay his hotel bill, which was too expensive for him on his way to Egypt, as he left behind everything at his hometown.

Rashi's first understanding indicates that Avram stayed at people's homes, free of charge, while his second explanation says that he stayed at hotels. A seeming *nafla minah* [practical ramification] between these two approaches would be when it is considered *derech erez* to lodge at the same places. It seems from *Rashi* that perhaps this *derech erez* only applies to returning to people's homes, but not hotels.

In the saga of *yetziat Mitzrayim*, Moshe couldn't bring himself to hit the water with his staff to bring forth the plague of blood, and therefore had Aharon do it for him. Chazal explain that this was because he had *hakarat hatov* to the water, because it saved his life by keeping the basket, in which his mother placed him when he was a baby, afloat. Why did Moshe have to show gratitude to water, an inanimate substance?

The answer is: מלא כל הארץ כבודו. The entire world – every object, every atom, every particle – is Hashem's Presence. Nothing here is just by chance; Hashem created everything with a Divine purpose. Everything. Small; big; important; inconsiderable. Hashem is מחדש בטובו בכל יום תמיד. He constantly keeps everything in creation existing. In a world where virtually everything is disposable and replaceable, it might be hard to maintain this mindset. But this is the true outlook every person should have. Moshe had gratitude to the water, an inanimate substance. Why? It was because he had a profound appreciation for Hashem keeping the water in place to save his life as an infant. Every second of the way, Hashem had the water flowing – while keeping the rest of creation intact as well – and that saved Moshe's life. Hashem infused the entire world – every creation – with spirituality. A person's actions have such power to influence that spirituality, whether to imbue it with positive or negative energy. In fact, there were many stories with big *tzaddikim* passing through certain places and commenting that they felt a *ruach tum'ah* or *ruach taharah* as they passed by. Places in which sins are performed and places in which Mitzvot are performed give off those vibes, which can be felt by *tzaddikim*, who are closer to *ruchniyut* and are therefore more sensitive to it. From the start, water was what physically saved Moshe's life. And forever on, Moshe would have that spiritual connection with it, and would be eternally grateful. With this outlook, the *nafla minah* proposed between *Rashi's* two explanations is dismissed. The *derech erez* of lodging at the same places would apply to hotels as well as people's homes. For once that place served you, that spiritual connection will always remain, and it would be befitting to show proper gratitude.

It's Free

A 93 year-old man in Italy, after surviving COVID, recovered in the hospital. He was told to pay for the ventilator he used for one day. The old man started to cry. The doctor advised the man, "Don't cry over the bill; thank G-d you're alive." The old man responded: "I don't cry because of the money I have to pay. I can pay for all of it. I'm crying because for 93 years, I've been breathing G-d's air but never had to pay a penny. To use your ventilator for one day, I owe five thousand Euros. I realize now how much I owe G-d, and I never thanked Him before."

David HaMelech writes: כל הנשמה תהלל יי (Every soul will praise Hashem), but our Sages expound on the *pasuk*: על כל הנשימה תהלל יי – for every breath you take, praise Hashem.

So often, we take the common blessings in our lives for granted. Take a breath, and say Thank You Hashem. (R' Ariel Mizrahi)

"Happiness defies all rules of arithmetic. It adds and multiplies each time you divide it with others."

Dedicated for the safety & success of our beloved Israeli Soldiers, our brothers & sisters in Israel, & all Am Yisrael.

Refuah Sheleimah, b'toch she'ar cholei Yisrael:

Ariel Ben Frida	Frida Bat Yaffa	Miriam Bat Bakol	Esther Bat Frida
R' Aharon Moshe Ben Fruma Rachel		Yitzchak Elimelech Ben Chana Sara	
Chaim Yosef ben Sima Perel	Chaya Dina Bat Chana Mindy	Yitzchak Ben Sara	
Noach Yisrael Ben Yaffah	Rachamim Ben Shifra	Yitzchak Ben Naama	
Menachem Mendel Chaim ben Merel	Chana Perel Bat Rachel	Rachel Bat Leah	