



Parashat Lech Lecha

להגדיל את אברהם

כתוב בפסוק (יב:א) "ויאמר ה' אל אברהם לך מארצך וממולדתך ומבית אביך אל הארץ אשר אראך", ופרש"י שאודיע טבעך בעולם. על פי רוב אין מחשיבים את האדם במקום מולדתו מרוב הרגל בו. וה' רצה להגדיל את אברהם שיצאו לו מוניטין בעולם, לכך אמר לו: "לך לך מארצך וממולדתך".

Finish what you start

The Pasuk tells us (12:5) "And they [Avraham and Lot] **went out** to go to the land of Canaan, **and they came** to the land of Canaan. The Chafetz Chaim asks, why does the Pasuk tell us that they **went** out to go to Canaan, all it needs to tell us is that they **came** to Canaan? He answers that the combination of the words **went** and **came** are coming to teach us a lesson of finishing what we start. Sometimes we take upon ourselves a new task or a path of improvement, a way to become better and closer to Hashem. However soon after we start, we slow down and don't end up completing our desired goal. The Pasuk therefore tells us **they went** and **they came**, to teach us not only to begin doing the right thing, but to also make sure to complete what we start, even though there will be difficulties and challenges along the way.

Count the Stars Do the Impossible

In this week's Parashah, Avraham questions G-d: "What can you give me, I am childless?" G-d answers by promising Avraham that he will have children. G-d directs Avraham outside and asks him to look up and count the stars, saying "Thus will be your descendants" [Bereishit 15:2-5]. Rav Meir Shapiro asks, "What would be our reaction if someone told us to go out and count the stars?" Our reaction would be to simply ignore the request. We would say, "I know this is an impossible task. I know it is beyond the realm of possibility. Why even bother?" What did Avraham do? He went out and counted the stars! He attempted to do the impossible. G-d responded "This is the way your descendants will be". "This attribute that you are showing here now — when it looks impossible, when it looks beyond the reach of human beings, nevertheless to try; nevertheless to give it one's best — This is the way your descendants will be. That is the characteristic of Am Yisrael. Even though the task seems almost impossible, we still must try." Sometimes we think that we don't have the strength and abilities to withstand what life has dealt us. We think it is beyond our capabilities. But we try and we are granted with strength that we never dreamt we possessed. That is the blessing of "Thus shall be your descendants." Am Yisroel has the attribute of looking at something which seems impossible, but nevertheless trying, never giving up... and being rewarded with powers that they never thought they had. (Rabbi Frand)