

## **PARASHAT LECH LECHA** TO LIVE A LIFE OF STRUGGLE

The passuk says that Avraham asked G-d to make a treaty with him. He said “how do I know that everything you are telling me, will be fulfilled? So they do a bris bein habesarim. Hashem tells Avraham that he’s going to have a nation and it’s going to be great. But he tells them also that they will suffer and be slaves to another nation for 400 years. Why does G-d see it necessary to tell Avraham that the Jews will go to galut for 400 years? He just started to tell Avraham about the nation he’s going to have! This shows that it was the original plan to go to Egypt and die! It was the original plan for thousands to die! The Shlah Hakadosh says the reason we went into to galus was because G-d wanted to make it natural to us that life is about work, to accustom us to do backbreaking work.

The reason we suffered and died was to teach us the meaning of work and pushing ourselves. “Adam le-amal Yoolad”- Man was born to work, both to struggle and work hard. On the luchot it says “I’m the G-d that took you out of Egypt (so you learn how to work).” A life lived without working is nothing. Life is a series of problems- do we want to solve them or moan about them? With total discipline you can solve them. The Mesilat Yesharim says that their 3 real reasons you are here; and that is to do mitzvot, to work and to stand up when tested. Anything other than these 3 things is foolish. As Winston Churchill once said, “All I can promise is blood, sweat, tears and afterward victory.” Your soul was sent down here to work. If we don’t do it ourselves, we love watching other do it. That’s why the average person watches 24 hours of TV a week. That’s 1/7<sup>th</sup> of a person’s life! That is more hours a person spends on work, school, hobbies, leisure...even more time that we speak to our fathers!

A Jewish soul has to fill his soul with a goal. We were born to work, and when you work you build the ultimate pleasure. At the age of 3, Avraham begins to think that there is a G-d. At age 40, he recognizes the creator. What’s Avraham doing for 37 years!? Nimrod, on the other hand, knew there was a G-d but his whole purpose was to rebel. Rav Volbe asks, how can you know G-d and intent to rebel? He answers that once you know that there is a G-d, it obligates you. You can’t do whatever else you want. You either like Avraham and work towards Hashem or like Nimrod and rebel. It’s one way or the other. Avraham struggled for 37 years, then became an “eved Hashem”. When you believe in G-d and Hashgacha Pratus there is no jealousy, anger or haughtiness because you know that everything is coming from G-d.

A life lived without working is just not lived. There is a story told about a guy named Kurtis who works in a supermarket. One day, there is a new checkout girl that starts to work there. Kurtis becomes very fond of the checkout girl. The first day, he sees that she is walking home by herself. The next day, he offers to give her a ride to her house. After a little while he asks if they can go out together, but she's afraid. She can't do it because she has kids at home. So Kurtis offers to get her a babysitter. On the night they are supposed to go out, she calls him and tells him that the babysitter can't come. He begs her to take the children with them. She is very reluctant. So he comes to her house and sees she has one kid who has down syndrome and another that is paraplegic. He still can't believe why they can't take the kids out. She starts crying because she sees how sensitive this guy is, her last husband left her because he didn't want to take care of the kids. The whole night he takes care of the kids like they are his own. Now they are married with 2 more kids. Kurtis "Kurt" Warner now plays quarterback for the St. Louis Rams in the NFL. If you can work, then you can go anywhere. You can go from being a supermarket checkout boy, to a quarterback in the NFL. All you need is to work