**Lech Lecha 2013**

א)

Kedusha of Eretz Yisroel

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| **יב:ה** וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם אֶת-שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ וכו' | **12:5** And Avraham took Sarai his wife... |

Nachalas Tzvi daf 24:

Zohar, on daf 79 asks: Why use the lashon of "and he took"?

The Zohar says Avraham verbally appeased his wife to convince her with words to join him in going to Israel. He explains that he did this because a husband can't force his wife to go to another place without her consent.

The question is as follows. We know the Gemara in Kesubas 110 says anyone can force their spouse to go to Eretz Yisroel! So over here, when Avraham was going to Eretz Yisroel he didn’t need to ask his wife, so what's the Zohar talking about?

It's possible we can answer that Israel didn't have the high level of kedusha that the Gemara in Kesubas is reffering to when the Gemara says the halacha of forcing spouce to move to Israel since it is prior to the building of the Beis Hamikdash, therefore Avraham was not allowed to force Sarah to go.

ב)

Reaching your own potential

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| **יב:א** וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אַבְרָם, לֶךְ-לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ, אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ. | **12:1** Now the LORD said unto Avraham: 'Go for yourself from your homeland, and from your birthplace, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. |

Rabbi Zilberstein in Aleinu L’shabayach page 162:

He says Hashem is telling Avraham that it is the root of your neshama to do this. We learn from here that **we don't ask a person to do more than what he is capable of doing. We want a person to invest all his potential effort to reach the highest level he possibly can, but we don't ask him more than he can do.** Shlomo Hamelech in Koheles 9,10 writes כֹּל אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא יָדְךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּכֹחֲךָ עֲשֵׂה, meaning anything that is in your strength to do, you must do.

He brings a story of Rav Zusha. Rav Zusha once said if they say ask me the next world ‘Why weren't you on the level of the Baal Shem Tov?’ I won't be worried. How can you compare me to such a chashuv gadol? Did I have his abilities or the siyata dishmaya he had? However, **if they say ‘Why weren't you the Zusha you could have become?’ That is something that I'll be afraid of.**

Rabbi Zilberstein then brings the Medrash in Bamidbar Raba 21, 16: Hashem said I'm giving you 10 animals for Korbanos. Hashem says 3 are in your domain (your ability to acquire) and 7 are very hard for you to get. I never said you have to go out of your way to get the ones that are hard for you. Only bring from what you can. Do whatever you can do.

The Ramban over here is bothered by why the pasuk says "from your land, from where you were born and from your father's house." He explains that each phrase is telling us something else. He says it's very difficult for a person to leave a place where he was settled and all his friends are. All the more so if he was born there, and for sure if his entire family is there. So that’s why it needed to say all these phrases.

There is a concept of schar halicha (getting rewarded for the steps that a person takes in order to perform a mitzvah).

The Tana D’bei Eliyahu Zuta in Perek 17 brings that R’ Yochanan says I learnt the entire Torah but I didn't know 2 things. One of them was the following: There was an old lady that was walking from one city to another to go to the shul that was farther away. When he asked her why she is going so far to daven when there is a shul in her town she responded by saying “schar halicha.” R’ Yochanan said he never learnt the chashivus of schar halicha until he encountered this woman.

See also Gemara in Brachos 6b that disscuses schar halicha.

Rabbeinu Bachaya beginning of Parasha Eikev explains that this inyan (concept) of schar halicha is not only by walking to shul or the beis medrash but rather by any mitzvah you do.

Maharal says when a person does a physical action it affects that person; Hashem calculates every step he takes to perform it and rewards him for it.

A person can have the ability to learn an immense amount and doesn't, so then he will be judged severely. However, another person can only have the strength to learn a small amount and if he does that then he did everything that was required of him. Whatever is in your ability to accomplish this is the level that you must reach.

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