

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Lech lecha, Sicha 4

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

The Parsha of Lech Lecha begins with Hashem's direct command
To Avraham Avinu that he leave his father's land
Exactly where Avraham must go the pasuk does not clearly tell
Yet we know that the land he traveled was Eretz Yisroel

The Midrash says that as Avraham trekked he saw people planting and
He prayed to Hashem and asked to have a portion of that land
The Torah tells us that Hashem replied, "Avraham you did merit
That this very land on which you stand your children will inherit."

But how are we to understand why Avraham would be glad
For the Jews to get that land only once they had
Displaced those very workers with whom Avraham was impressed
If they're not there how then does this fulfill Avraham's request?

"Man was born to toil" is what sefer Iyov teaches
But is the best toil to work the land or maybe work in speech is?
And if it is speech do we mean conversation and chatter?
Or is toil in Torah study the only speech that matters?

The Gemara asks these questions and the answer there is stated
 That to toil in Torah study is why man was created
 Hashem wants us to work real hard when Torah we do learn
 To understand it fully we must strive and we must yearn

But how are we to understand that it might be true
 That toiling in Torah is not what we are here to do?
 Could it even be we're meant to work on talk and speeches?
 Or that physical labor is the highest that a human reaches?

Both these questions will be answered when we understand
 That people have a strong desire to work and lend a hand
 To Hashem and be a partner in the world's creation
 By creating on our own, making an innovation

There are three levels and three stages when one does create
 The first is toil of labor when we improve or we make great
 A part of Hashem's physical world, but although that's true
 It's not so impressive because animals can do that too

The next level up is toil of speech which is a human trait
 We innovate when we communicate and we collaborate
 But that's a human specialty, limited and set
 It does make for a better world but it's not G-dly yet

Toil in Torah study is the third stage and the best
 For Torah's the wisdom of Hashem higher than all the rest
 When one studies Torah well it becomes a part of them
 And that's the greatest creation – uniting the Jew with Hashem

In our service of Hashem there's these three levels too
 Three stages in our efforts to become a better Jew
 Our efforts to work for Hashem and be closer to Him
 And make His world a G-dly home – Dirah b'tachtonim

Toil of labor is stage one when a Yid runs his business
Trusting that Hashem will provide and grant him much success
This does create a unity between Hashem and His nation
But it's limited to the G-dly level that's related to creation

Toil of speech for the Jew is davening and prayer
This elevates him to a higher spiritual layer
But since this elevation comes from him it's limited
To his limited efforts as a human and a Yid

Toil of Torah is the top through it a Jew can
Create something truly new as per Hashem's plan
Since Torah's Hashem's wisdom and He is infinite
Through Torah you can transcend the world and everything in it

Now this is why when Avraham saw the toil being done
He realized that creativity and transcendence had begun
And so he prayed this land should go to his children and his nation
And they would illuminate the land through Torah that transcends Creation.
