

By Rabbi Avrohom Lipszyc

*The Land of Israel is Designated and Prepared for to Jewish People by G-d*

(-Exodus 23:20) "Behold, I am sending an angel... to bring you to the place that הַכֹּהֲנִי -hachinosi' (I have prepared)." Rashi comments, "That I have prepared': (i) "Which I have designated to give to you. This is its simple meaning. (ii) Its Midrashic interpretation is: 'That I have prepared': My place is already recognizable opposite it. (iii) This is one of the verses that state that the heavenly Temple is directly opposite the earthly Temple."

(i) Rashi sees no act of preparation, hence, he redefines *hachinosi* here to mean (זְמַנְתִּי) *designation/ Invitation*, "To give to you," in the future. (ii) Nevertheless, *hachinosi* is normally meant to denote an *action*, hence the Midrashic interpretation, "That I have prepared': My place is already recognizable opposite it." (iii) However, how come we don't see from this *action* anything "recognizable" in the terrestrial realm?! Because, this verse is but, "one of the verses that state that the heavenly Temple is directly opposite the earthly Temple," but not that any specific *terrestrial action* took place now in our verse.

*Legal Ramifications:* (-Sanhedrin 47b) "Abaye says, 'mere designation of an item is a significant matter --i.e., all the relevant laws of an item already apply once an item is designated for a specific purpose, whether or not it has been used for that purpose.' (And Rava says, 'mere designation is nothing.'" Even Rava's opinion, which is the ruling, agrees that in certain cases, "mere designation of an item is a significant matter.") The question, and differences in opinion thereof, is, whether, "designation by mere speech," is considered a designation or not. Rashi's first comment, in which there was no action, but G-d's *speech*, is according to the opinion that, "designation by mere speech," is a designation, while the second interpretation, which necessitated the *action* effect of, "My place is already recognizable opposite it," says that, "designation by mere speech," is not a designation.