

HAAMEK DAVAR

- Dr Jacob Solomon

VA'EIRA

G-d's call to Moshe to inform Am Yisrael in Egypt of His plan for them, ends with:

"I will give you [the Land] morasha, as a heritage. I am G-d" (6:8).

The Ha'amek Davar pays attention to G-d's referring to the Land as MORASHA, a heritage, instead of the more usual Y'RUSHA, an inheritance. MORASHA relates to the verb L'HORISH, to cause one to inherit, instead of LARESHET, to inherit. The Ha'amek Davar thus explains that the relationship of Am Yisrael to the Land is more than mere inheritance. Not only is it something that connects with us, but there is a something in us that connects with the Land. It is not simply living in the land, but belonging to the Land. It is the Land that G-d in His Wisdom determined to be the place of His destiny for Am Yisrael. Even when Am Yisrael has not yet taken possession of the Land or even been anywhere near it, it connects with them, their prayers, and their aspirations. It is though they are magnetically attracted to the Land, and the Land magnetically attracts them. Perhaps like birds' homing instincts: wherever they are

in Chutz LaAretz, their instincts are such that if they are not in Israel, they are not at their final, final destiny.

The word MORASHA occurs once elsewhere in the Torah: "The Torah is what Moshe commanded us. It is a MORASHA, a heritage, to the Congregation of Yaakov" (D'varim 33:4). Applying the Ha'amek Davar's explanation, it is more than a mere possession; it is the Torah that G-d in His Wisdom determined to be the source of wisdom, inspiration, and guide to the ultimate destiny of Klal Yisrael. "Engage with it, engage with it... and look into it..." (Avot 5:22), and for millennia, Jews have been feeling at home doing just that and finding it the powerhouse of their success and daily lives. G-d designed the Torah to suit Klal Yisrael. Like the Land, for uninterrupted generations people of Am Yisrael have been 'magnetically' drawn and inspired to the Torah and its teachings, which in turn they have continued to reapply to the realities and needs of their generation and environment. The Torah, like Eretz Yisrael, is part of them, even if they are not present with it at a particular moment. As long as it is suitably presented, even the less well-informed Jewish person's soul responds... Like a bird returning from a long migration, with the sense of

being back at the spiritual home.

And perhaps we can take this idea one stage further. There is a triangle: Am Yisrael, Torat Yisrael, and Eretz Yisrael. As Rav Kook expounds, all are required for Am Yisrael to achieve their ultimate world purpose and destiny, in drawing the entire Creation to the Almighty (c.f. Yeshayahu 49:6). And to help us, G-d creates the magnetism, the homing instinct, of MORASHA: connection to the Torah and connection to the Land that still pulls us even where we may resist the pull... ❀