

CHIZUK & IDUD

*Divrei Torah from the weekly sedra
with a focus on living in Eretz Yisrael
Chizuk for Olim & Idud for not-yet-Olim*

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What lessons can we learn from Moshe's example? On a general level we can appreciate from Moshe's actions, that although we are not given any guarantees that our prayers will be answered as we would wish them to be, it is incumbent upon us to cling to Hashem; to turn to Him in prayer and not give up!

More specifically, though, Moshe's behaviour demonstrates how a Jew should cultivate and harbour the strongest of yearnings for the Holy Land - The dream of coming to live in the Holy Land should animate one's prayers and this desire should fill one's mind and heart!

The Kuzari (5:25) tells us that "Jerusalem can only be rebuilt when Jews yearn for it to such an extent that they embrace her stones and dust."

A second lesson pertains to the price one should be willing to pay for the realization of this dream. Moshe is ready and willing to give up his status, and to forgo his job title. [The Midrash tells us that in his prayers Moshe was willing to go much further

than that, making G-d the following unbelievable proposition: "Hashem, If I cannot enter the Land in human form, let me enter as a bird! - just allow me in!"]

Returning to the question we discussed above, I would like to repeat an additional answer that Menachem Becker records in his "Parpera'ot LaTorah" in the name of Rav Kook zt"l.

A staunch, and wealthy, supporter of the Chovevei Zion Movement came to visit Eretz Yisrael in order to check out Aliyah opportunities. After touring the length and the breadth of the Land, he concluded that he was simply not cut out for life in Israel. Before returning to his home in the Galut, he went to bid farewell to Rav Kook. Knowing the Chief Rabbi's views and deep-hearted sentiments, the man began by praising various aspects of the Holy Land, concluding with his regrets that he was forced to postpone any practical plans to make Aliyah. Nevertheless, he promised that when he arrived back home he would continue to persuade others to come on Aliyah. Rav Kook responded by raising our question: "We know that in Parshat Va'etchanan Moshe pleaded with the Almighty for the opportunity to enter the Land. Why, though, did he not pray for this when he was first told (Bamidbar 20:12) of the Almighty's decree against his

entry? Why did he wait until Sefer D'varim?" Rav Kook replied that Moshe waited for the opportunity to prove the strength of his love for Eretz Yisrael. After fighting, and conquering the lands of Sichon and Og, which marked the initial movement towards capturing Eretz Yisrael, Moshe felt the time was right - he had proven himself worthy to enter the Land. Rav Kook turned to his guest saying that "You have already done enough to prove your love for the Land. You have nothing more to prove - it is time to come here with your family! Time to fulfill the mitzva of Yishuv HaAretz!"

These words should be spoken to all the pro-Zionist teachers, preachers and functionaries abroad who consistently act in a way which proves their Zionistic passion. You have done enough to prove your Zionistic beliefs, and have spoken enough of your love for the land and its inhabitants while living in the Galut, it is time you translated your words into action and came here yourself! Let the time be now! 🏠👉

These weekly words of Torah wisdom can be found in my recently published book "Eretz Yisrael and Aliyah in the weekly Parsha". It can be ordered by calling 052-336-0553 or by ordering it on Amazon