



**PhiloTorah D'var Torah**

## **A pasuk jumps off the page and smacks you on the forehead...**

Has that ever happened to you?

It has happened to me a number of times, but the one time I remember best, was the afternoon of Shabbat Nachamu, summer of 1969.

I had just graduated from YU, and I was a madrich of a summer tour for high school students under the auspices of Mizrahi HaTza'ir and the Jewish Agency - MACHON KAYITZ DATI.

We were in Teveria for Shabbat Nachamu and the fellow I had assigned to give a D'var Torah at Seuda Sh'lishit came to me after Mincha, as we were on our way to the dining hall, to tell me that he forgot and was not prepared to speak.

So I quickly opened my siddur to the Torah reading we had just heard at Mincha, looking for something good with which to form a DT.

And that's when D'varim 8:1 jumped off the page and bopped me over the head.

**KOL HAMITZVA...** "Every commandment that I command you this day you shall keep to do, that you may live and multiply, and come and possess the land that HaShem swore to your forefathers.

At that moment, I remember clearly making a decision that my future was to be in Eretz Yisrael. SOFI - final decision.

The fact that it took me 12 years to realize that decision, is not the point. What is the point is that over and over many p'sukim in the beginning sedras of D'varim, HKBH's RATZON (Will) is revealed and emphasized.

D'varim 8:1 is the pasuk that did it for me; you chose your own.

But here's what you do with your pasuk. If you have not committed yourself to Aliya, consider the implication of the pasuk. G-d's purpose for taking us out of Egypt, for making us a Nation, for giving us the Torah - was, is, and always will be, that we should live a Torah Life in ERETZ YISRAEL.

Getting too comfortable in Chutz LaAretz is contrary to G-d's Will.

He wants all Jews to love and live the Torah, and He wants all Jews to love and live the Torah in Eretz Yisrael.

If you are committed to Aliya, work hard to realize that commitment.

If you already have made Aliya, try not to take living here for granted. Try not to forget that you are fulfilling R'TZON HASHEM every moment of your lives.

And help spread the message and commitment to others - in a pleasant way that will increase to quantity and quality of Torah & Mitzvot observance and of Yishuv Eretz Yisrael.

**PTDT**