

The Daily Portion

- Sivan Rahav Meir

Five things for this Shabbat

Translated by Janine Muller Sherr

1) This week's parasha is Lech L'cha, the third parasha in the Torah.

After Parashat B'reishit and Parashat Noa'ch, God instructs our ancestors, Avraham and Sara, to leave their land and go to the land of Israel in order to establish a new nation there.

2) Avraham and Sara are both the first Jews and the first Olim to Israel. As the verse states, "And HaShem said to Avram, "Go forth from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house to the land that I will show you." They were the first to call Israel home.

3) There is only one mitzva in this parasha, which is the first mitzva observed by our father Avraham: brit mila. Almost one hundred percent of his descendants have scrupulously observed this mitzva until this day.

4) Pay attention to the phrase, LECH L'CHA (which is difficult to translate into any other language). The first command to the first Jew is to move forward. Walk. Proceed. Progress. Act. Do not stand still. Be a messenger with a specific task to

accomplish in this world. Our sages explain that this calling to Avraham still echoes in the world; it is up to us to hear it.

5) Notice that the action is not directed outward but inward: LECH L'CHA – look inside yourself to discover your unique essence, your special calling, your own soul. May we merit to walk in the footsteps of Avraham.

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