

Project Shevach Ha'Aretz L'iluy Nishmas Yehuda Aryeh ben Yitzchak haKohen

Shalom from Yerushalayim Ir haKodesh veHamikdash – Parshas Tezaveh – Purim 5783

- This weeks' Shevach Ha'Aretz should be a Zchus for a Refuah Shleimah for Avraham ben Rivka

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- 1. Attached is this weeks' Dvar Torah from r'Efraim haKohen HersHKovits
- 2. Rav Chaim Kanievsky zt"l on Eretz Yisroel
- 3. Gedolei Yisroel – Vilna Gaon
- 4. A Drop in the Ocean – Or HaChayim, Devarim 26:1

Donations to Shevach Ha'Aretz can be made by going to <https://nedar.im/HPgD>.

Next week will mark the first Yartzheit of Rav Chaim, attached is a Sefer based on the Answers of Rav Chaim to questions asked about Eretz Yisroel. From the few that we translated, one can see and learn the great love and appreciation that Rav Chaim had for this special gift of Eretz Yisroel.

Q Why is there no Bracha on Yishuv Ha'Aretz?

A. "This Mitzva is Tmidis" (always) (Sefer Aleinu LeShabeach)

Q Should one make a Bracha of Shechyanu when he moves to Eretz Yisroel?

A "It is fitting to take a new fruit"

Q. What is better – to be a Rav in Chut La'Aretz or to be a regular Jew in the Eretz Yisroel? There are Rabbonim in chul that are unsure if it is better for them to be Rabbonim in chutz la'aretz or to go up to Eretz Yisroel, since in Eretz Yisroel there is no lack of Rabbonim?

A. In Eretz Yisroel (written response).

Q. A person who lives in chutz la'aretz – and if he would come to live in Eretz Yisroel would need to rely on others (parnassah, etc) is he Chayav to come up or pattur?

A. Chayav (written response).

Q. Someone who comes up to Eretz Yisroel with intent to return, does he fulfill the Mitzvah of Aliyah to Eretz Yisroel?

A. He fulfills and if he returns it is mevatal (written response).

Q. Is there a Mitzvah to travel to Eretz Yisroel, just to see the land?

A. "Even just to be there one moment in the land of Eretz Yisroel is a Mitzvah, and even if he can't be there in the Holy Land but just to see it is kedai. (Shut Yadun Moshe)

Q. Is it possible to liberate lands of Eretz Yisroel by shepherding herds?

A. Why not? (written response).

Q. "Anyone who goes 4 Amos in Eretz Yisroel is promised that he is Ben Olam Haba (Kesuvos 110a). Is every 4 amos an extra Mitzva or the same Mitzva?

A. Another Mitzva (written response).

Q. Is there an issur to dirty Eretz Yisroel also when its destroyed (see Beitzah 5b)?

A. Yes (Sefer ArieH Shag).

Q It says in the end of Ksuvos that the Gedolei haAmorayim would remove stumbling blocks in Eretz Yisroel is this just because of Shevach Ha'aretz, or is there in this action also Mitzvas Yishuv Haaretz?

A. "It is not proven that there is yishuv Haaretz and its more probable that this is from chivas Haaretz. (shut Yadin Moshe).

Gedolei Yisroel

(The following has been translated l'ilui Nishmas Pesia bas R. Meir)

The Attachment of Gedolei Yisrael to the Holy Land from the perspective of their Aliyah despite the difficulties and the tests and from the perspective of their refusal to leave Eretz Yisrael despite all the problems and complications of remaining.

The Vilna Gaon – Part II (“the Gra”) ר"אליהו מוילנא

In a letter the Vilna Gaon wrote to his mother and wife while traveling towards Eretz Yisrael, he begins with words of persuasion: I have come to ask you not to be distressed at all, as you previously promised me, truly. There are people who travel several years at a time to earn money, and leave their wives, and they wander about lacking everything. But I, praise G-d, am traveling to the Holy Land that everyone yearns to see, the desirable land of all Yisrael. And I am traveling at a time when the world is at peace, Baruch Hashem. And you know that I left my children, whom my heart longs for, and all my precious Sefarim, and I am like a stranger in another land, having left everything...”

We are amazed that the Vilna Gaon includes his great sorrow at leaving his children and his Sefarim. Only a great person such as the Vilna Gaon can understand how great is the loss of his Sefarim to help him in his studies. When a person has Sefarim from the leading scholars, it is as if the Giants of the world are found in his house imparting wisdom to him. However, when a person lacks Sefarim, he perforce lacks wisdom. As Rabbi Akiva said upon the death of his Rebbe, R Eliezer ben Hurkynos, “I have much money but no table upon which to display them.” As Rashi explains there, this means: “I have many questions and no one to answer them.”

While the Gaon was in Vilna, he had many wise and intelligent students and he was built up by interacting with them. As the Beraita states, one of the ways to acquire Torah is via “Pilpul with Students”. There is no doubt that in this respect the Vilna Gaon’s learning suffered by coming to Eretz Yisrael. How many Yeshivot were there (in Eretz Yisrael)? And how many of them learned in the “iyun” style that was customary in Lita? But all this was as nothing in the eyes of the Vilna Gaon, because of the holiness and inner wisdom that he knew are accessible in the Holy Land (as we wrote earlier regarding the Rambam’s ascension to Eretz Yisrael)

The Vilna Gaon’s test is different than all those that we mentioned previously, because the by traveling the Vilna Gaon was cut off from his lifeblood, i.e., from all the ancient handwritten manuscripts that he collected. We know that R. Yaakov gave the Vilna Gaon handwritten manuscripts of the Ramchal (R. Moshe Chaim Luzzato), that he received from R. Yekutiel Gordon, the student of the Ramchal. Some estimate that the Vilna Gaon also was in possession of part of commentary of the Ramak (Rav Moshe Cordovero) on the Zohar HaKadosh. By traveling to Eretz Yisrael, it was inevitable that the Vilna Gaon would lose the ability to learn from these Sefarim.

A Drop in the Ocean – A daily dose of Eretz Yisrael

Or HaChayim, Devarim 26:1

According to the holy author of Or HaChayim, R. Chayim ben Atar (1696-1743), Eretz Yisrael is the only place where a Jew should feel true happiness.

It shall be (והיה) when you enter the Land [that the Lord, your God, gives you as an inheritance...] (Devarim 26:1). [The Torah] used the word והיה, which connotes happiness, to suggest that one should only rejoice in dwelling in the Land, as [King David] said, [When the Lord will return the captivity of Zion, we will be like dreamers.] Then our mouths will fill with laughter... (Tehillim 126:1-2).

(By the way, the Or HaChayim practiced what he preached and made Aliyah at the age of 45. Unfortunately, he died less than two years later.)

Taken from the Sefer "A Drop in the Ocean," sources from Chazal on Eretz Yisroel into a lesson-a-day. Those who would like to purchase the sefer (Hebrew-English side by side) can contact us at projectshevach@gmail.com

Project Shevach Ha'Aretz

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