

Parshas Lech Lecha | October 27, 2023 | Volume 25 | Issue 1

All For The Boss

By: Rabbi Avraham Abrams (Originally Published 2005)

Take a vacation! It's the quintessential, all encompassing, modern-day, quick-fix solution to most problems. In our high-speed, high-tech world, where everyone is always on the move and stress levels are high, many of us can become overwhelmed. Whether in our personal or professional life, we often need to take a break and stop for a change of scenery.

As the Talmud tell us, "Meshaneh makom, meshaneh mazal," "A change of location, a change of luck." We have all heard the phrase before. When things don't seem to be going well in the city in which we live or where we work, we often think about making a change or a move. Perhaps, we will have more success somewhere else. On the surface, it seems that this idea might be relevant to this week's Parsha.

In Lech Lecha, Hashem instructs Avraham to pick up and leave his homeland. When Avraham received this command, he wasn't given a reason as to why he should undertake this sudden move, nor was he given a destination.

At first glance, this seems to demonstrate extraordinary faith on Avraham's part. But, is it possible that Avraham had an ulterior motive in speedily fulfilling Hashem's directive? Perhaps there was a hidden personal agenda that made Avraham decide to leave?

Rabbi Aaron Walkin, in his Sefer Bais Aaron, cites a source from this week's Parsha to prove Avraham only left his home because it was the Will of Hashem. "And Avraham took Sara his wife, and Lot his nephew, and all the property which he had acquired, and all the souls which he created in Charan."

Avraham took Sarah with him on his journey. He wasn't trying to escape from his family either, as he also took his nephew Lot along.

Was his reason for leaving a financial one? The Torah tells us that he brought along all that he acquired, all his material goods, which demonstrates that he wasn't leaving because he didn't have adequate funds to support his family.

Perhaps the people in his city were not pleased with Avraham's lifestyle and were pressuring him to leave? Again, the answer is in the negative because they all accompanied him, demonstrating their loyalty to him.

Rabbi Walkin concludes that Avraham demonstrated that he left Charan for one reason – and for one reason only: because Hashem commanded him to leave. Avraham's entire life was devoted to unquestioningly following the Will of Hashem, even when the reasons for an action were unclear to him. This underlying trait was one of the vital components for which Avraham merited to become "Father of the Jewish People." This legacy has been transmitted to Klal Yisroel throughout every generation.

Alumni Focus Rabbi Avraham Abrams

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Rabbi Abrams, teaching in Kollel, 2005

2002-2010

Years as a Denver
Kollel Scholar

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Rabbi Abrams, teaching in 2023

REBBI

3rd Grade,
Hillel Academy of Denver

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In an effort to create spiritual merits for our Nation, the Kollel began its winter semester early this year