



Adapted from the sefer חמין במוצאי שבת and חדוותא דזעיר אנפין collections of  
maamarim  
given by the Tolner Rebbe shlita at Seuda Shlishis and Melave Malka

### ***Melave Malka Parshas Lech Lecha 5775***

In his *Sefer Daas Moshe*, Rav Moshe of Kozhnitz zy"א brings a wonderful and precious explanation of the *pasuk* (בראשית י"ב:א)

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל־אַבְרָם לֵךְ־לְךָ מֵאֶרֶצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֹרְאָךְ:

He relates that his father-in-law, the Tzadik Rav Elazar of Lizhensk zy"א once chastised him by explaining the *pasuk* as follows.

לך מֵאֶרֶץ - Go out from your land - For Chazal taught that some lands foster the development of mighty men. Even if you were born in such a land, don't rely on it.

וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ - and from your birthplace - Some people are born with a natural tendency to be good. If you were born with such a tendency, pay no attention to it.

וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ - and from your father's house - Even if someone's father is a Tzadik and Kadosh...

You must walk away from all of these advantages and go only אל הארץ - to the land which I will show you. This refers to the way of life described in *Tehillim*, (תהילים קכ"ח:ב), וְגִיעַ בִּפִּיךָ כִּי תֹאכַל אֲשֶׁר־יָדְךָ וְטוֹב לְךָ  
When you eat from the toil of your hands, you are fortunate and it is good for you. You must do the work yourself.



[1]

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I often mention a powerful story that I heard from my grandfather zy" a. He once visited the Gerrer Rebbe, the Bais Yisrael zy" a, at the same time as a man who had an impressive *yichus* - lineage. The man had decided to tell the Bais Yisrael exactly whom his illustrious ancestors were, first those on his father's side, and then on his mother's side. When he finished, the *Bais Yisrael* stood up, grabbed him by the lapels of his coat and said *א גרויסער יחוס, אבער ווער ביסטו אליינט!* - A great *yichus*, but who are you yourself?

In other words, all of this great *yichus* can't help you unless you serve Hashem as a Jew should. *אל הארץ אשר אראך* - by your own efforts in Torah and *maasim tovim*.

This is an important lesson for each and every one of us. When it comes to Torah and *avodas Hashem*, an impressive lineage provides no advantage or merit. Your ancestors' Torah won't automatically come to you as an inheritance. You must toil with all of your strength in Torah and *avodah*. Only as a result of your own diligence and persistence will you progress.

Just a few days ago, on the third of *Ram Cheshvan*, was the first *yahrzeit* of the great *gaon*, *Maran Rav Ovadia Yosef zt"l*. There was no *gaon* who could compare to him in the last generation. He restored the crown of *Torat Eidot Hamizrach* to its rightful place. It was well known that he came from a poor, simple home. His father wasn't a Rav or Rosh Yeshiva, but rather a simple shopkeeper. However, Rav Ovadia toiled in Torah with incredible *hasmada* and diligence, and he reached wondrous levels of Torah wisdom and all good *midos*. Only as a result of his own efforts did he accomplish so much. All of *Am Yisrael* had the *zchus* to benefit from his wellsprings of Torah and *avodah*.

This is the powerful lesson that Rav Elazar of Lizhensk taught his son-in-law Rav Moshe of Kozhnitz regarding the meaning of *לך לך מארץ* וממולדתך ומבית אביך אל הארץ אשר אראך.



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