

Parshas Masei – “Are We Home Yet?”:

1. **Bamidbar 33;1:** These are the journeys of the Israelites.
2. **Likutei Moharan Ch. 40:** It is brought in the Asarah Maamarot: “Eilah Mas’ey (These are the journeys) of the Israelites” – because they sinned with “Eilah (This is) your god, Israel,” as a result the Israelites journeyed. We see, then, that all a person’s journeys are because of a blemish in faith – i.e. an aspect of idolatry. For if he had believed with a perfect faith that God could provide him with all his needs (at home), he would (certainly) not have set out on a journey. Consequently, the journey (indicates) a blemish in faith – i.e., an aspect of idolatry... (And) by virtue of his wandering, he rectifies the wandering he caused Above, as it were.
3. **Sefer Hamidos:** Through traveling on roads, one becomes a “Meivin” (expert).
4. **Rashi Bamidbar 33;1:** This is compared to a king whose son was ill and he took him to a distant place to cure him. Once they started back, his father began to count all of the journeys. He said to his son, “Here we felt cold, here you had a headache, etc.
5. **Midrash Rus Raba:** R’ Yitzchak said: When a person does a mitzvah, he should do it with all his heart / a happy heart... Had Reuven known that Hashem would record [in the Torah] that he had saved Yosef from his brothers, he would have carried Yosef back to his father on his shoulders! Had Aaron known that Hashem would record in the Torah, “And he will see you [Moshe], and he will be joyous in his heart [without jealousy over Moshe’s appointment as leader of Israel], (Shemos/Exodus 4:14)” he would have come out to greet him with dancing and drums... Had Boaz known that Hashem would record in the Torah that he gave Ruth grain, he would have fed her fattened calves. Rabbi Kohen and Rabbi Yehuda of Sechnin in the name of Rabbi Levi said: in times past when a man did a Mitzvah the prophet used to record it, but now when a man does a Mitzvah who records it? Eliyahu and the king Mashiach, the Holy One blessed be signing beside them; in accordance with that which is written, “Then they that feared the LORD spoke one with another; and the LORD hearkened, and heard, and a book of Remembrance was written before Him, for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name.
6. **Psalms 101;1:** Of kindness and justice will I sing.
7. **Bamidbar 33; 37-38:** They journeyed from Kadesh and camped in Mount Hor, at the edge of the land of Edom. Then Aharon the Kohen went up to Mount Hor at the word of Hashem and died there...in the fifth month on the first of the month.
8. **The Healing Soul, Introduction:** But we who believe in God as the Creator of all cures can understand this phenomenon very simply – it is our faith in God as the Faithful Healer that opens our souls to His healing powers.