

# No Stone Left Unturned

פרשת בשלח

In this week's Parshah, the Ralbag derives a lesson in Middos from the way in which Hashem carried out His plan of the Jewish people becoming His nation. The Ralbag states, "It is appropriate for one who is trying to accomplish something, to protect himself from anything that may prevent him from achieving his goal. In addition, he should stay focused on anything that can help him attain his goals. This can be learned from the fact that when Hashem wanted to take the Jewish people to be His nation and fulfill the oath that He swore to the Avos, He wisely strategized to utilize everything that would help to achieve this goal. In Egypt, He orchestrated great wonders to show that He is the master of everything. At the time that He took them out of Egypt, He did not want to bring them to Eretz Canaan through the straight route, as this was too close to Egypt. He was afraid that since they were not trained in war, they would flee back to Mitzrayim out of fear upon seeing the fighting. Hashem also led them out with all of their belongings and great treasures so that they would not want to go back to Egypt. If they would have left something in Egypt, they may have stressed over their item and returned to Egypt. It is for this reason that

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*"One who is trying to accomplish something should protect himself from anything that may prevent him from achieving his goal."*

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Hashem had them borrow silver and gold vessels from the Egyptians, so that they would hesitate from going back to Egypt, so that they didn't have to return the items. Additionally, they would experience great embarrassment for running away with what they borrowed, and paying back the Egyptians bad for good. Hashem also directed them through the Yam Suf in order that they see the miracles of the splitting of the sea and deepen their Emunah in Hashem and Moshe, His servant. The Yam Suf also gave them the peace of mind that the Egyptians were dead and they could no longer run after them. This is also the reason that Hashem provided them the great miracles in

the desert, such as the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar by fire at night. Through these miracles they saw Hashem's power to do anything He wants. This would cause them to commit to following the Torah in a manner that the Jewish people would be His nation and Hashem their G-d."

At first glance the Ralbag is difficult to understand. The amount of effort Hashem invested in achieving this goal seems extreme. Why would it be necessary to take so many precautions to prevent the Jewish people from going to Egypt? In Egypt, they suffered immensely, so they certainly would be very hesitant to return. In addition, why was it necessary to perform so many miracles for the Jewish people to take them as a nation. Surely the miracles of Egypt would be enough of an Emunah builder. Why were Krias Yam Suf and the miracles of the desert necessary in order for Hashem to achieve his goal?

We can glean from here a powerful insight in regards to our obligation of Hishtadlus. It seems that when we are obligated to do Hishtadlus, our obligation requires us to do everything possible to achieve our goal. This includes preventing distant and unlikely possibilities as well as a constant focus on deepening many concepts we already know. This lesson is extremely relevant to parents and Mechanchim who are actively engaged in trying to ensure that their children or students stay connected to Hashem. This requires them to develop the middah of leaving no stone left unturned, and doing everything possible to achieve their goal.

BASED ON THE WEEKLY SHMUSS GIVEN BY HARAV SHAYA COHEN, ROSH HAYESHIVA ZICHRON ARYEH

לעילוי נשמת גיטל בת הרב אליעזר מנוח  
לעילוי נשמת הרב יוסף חיים בן מאיר  
לעילוי נשמת רפאל חיים דוב בן ריסא שושנה  
לרפואה שלמה יהושע דוד בן אלטא יענטא