



Parshas Bamidbar

Shmuz by Rabbi Yisroel Davidowitz

Written over by Shmuli Schwartz

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The Gemara in Eiruvim discusses the Pasuk in Chukas (21,18) “וַיִּמְדְּבָר מִתְּנֶה”, and learns out that for Torah to be established within a person, he needs to make himself like a desert - “that everyone steps on...” Rashi explains that to mean that he doesn't have arrogance. The Midrash Rabbah also says in our Pasuk that in order to acquire Torah, you need to make yourself like an “ownerless desert!” The Aitz Yosef explains this to mean that a person shouldn't be concerned about his body because of his tremendous diligence in studying Torah as we say a person needs to kill himself over studying Torah. He then gives a 2nd explanation that a person needs to be humble and lowly to learn from anybody and teach anyone. We see an insight from the words of the Midrash that it's not just to be on the highest level of Torah to need these qualities, but everyone cannot acquire Torah without these qualities!

The Maharzu says even further that a “ownerless desert” means “he isn't particular over anything in the entire world.”

The Gemara in Sotah goes even further that Torah is only acquired if a person makes “unclothed” over it, and Rashi explains that he separates from all matters until he becomes “empty and missing everything.” The Gemara in Eiruvim (54b) quotes a Pasuk in Mishlei that says a person should be “crazy constantly” like R' Elazer ben Pedas who would leave his coat in the upper market in Tzipori and sit and learn in the lower marketplace because he was so crazy with his Torah study!