



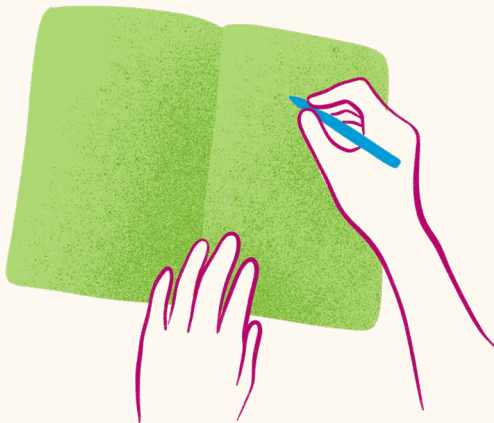
Bronfman at 36

Where Have You Been, Where Are You Now, and Where Are You Going?

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The story of Moses writing down the Torah he receives on Mount Sinai—that's well known. But fewer are familiar with the diary Moses kept along the way.



Numbers 33:2

And Moses wrote their goings forth, stage by stage, by the commandment of the LORD; and these are their stages at their goings forth.

Question for discussion:

Why was Moses commanded to chronicle where he and the children of Israel had been (and all their kvetching along the way, I would add)?

Moving onward in our lives—to new places (literally) or to new roles, relationships or states of being—elicits a range of feelings, sometimes all muddled together: anticipation, curiosity, fear, excitement, relief, wonder. No wonder we have prayers for leaving and arriving, coming and going. These Jewish sacred texts suggest ways of bringing deeper understanding to diverse journeys of life.

Questions for discussion:

Do any of these "texts" bring insight into your state of being as you experienced a past journey or phase of your life?



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What kind of insight might one or more of these “texts” provide you for a step along the way in your life right now?

Moving beyond this page and into your own creative space, what prayer/meditation, ritual, object or song—old or newly invented—might accompany you—like Moses’ wilderness diary, as you move onward in your life to where you’d like to be going?

What allows you to go to where you wish to “be” (physically, spiritually, existentially) next? What keeps you right where you are?

Deuteronomy 28:3-6

בְּרִוֵן אֶתְּהָ בְּעִיר וּבְרִוֵן אֶתְּהָ בְּשָׂדֶה:

Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the country.

בְּרִוֵן פְּרִי בִטְנֶיךָ וּפְרִי אֲדָמָתְךָ וּפְרִי בְהֵמָתְךָ שֶׁגֵּר
אֶלְפֶיךָ וְעִשְׂתָּרוֹת צֹאנֶיךָ:

Blessed shall be your issue from the womb, your produce from the soil, and the offspring of your cattle, the calving of your herd and the lambing of your flock.

בְּרִוֵן טַנְאָה וּמִשְׁאֲרֵתָהּ:

Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

בְּרִוֵן אֶתְּהָ בְּבֹאֶךָ וּבְרִוֵן אֶתְּהָ בְּצֵאתְךָ:

Blessed shall you be in your comings and blessed shall you be in your goings.

Brachot 29b

אָמַר לִיהוֹ אֱלֹהֵינוּ לָרֵב יְהוּדָה אַחוּהוּ דָּרַב סְלָא חֲסִידָא:
לָא תִרְתַּח וְלָא תִחְסִי. לָא תִרְוֵי וְלָא תִחְסִי. וְכִשְׁאַתְּהָ
יִצְאָ לְדַרְגָּה, הַמְלִיךְ בְּקוֹנֵךְ וְצֵא. מֵאֵי הַמְלִיךְ בְּקוֹנֵךְ
וְצֵא? אָמַר רַבִּי יַעֲקֹב אָמַר רַב חֲסִידָא: זֶה תִּפְלַת
הַדַּרְגָּה. וְאָמַר רַבִּי יַעֲקֹב אָמַר רַב חֲסִידָא: כָּל הַיּוֹצֵא
לְדַרְגָּה צָרוּךְ לְהִתְפַּלֵּל תִּפְלַת הַדַּרְגָּה.

On the topic of prayers recited while traveling and in times of danger, the Gemara discusses the traveler’s prayer. When he appeared to him, Elijah the Prophet said to Rav Yehuda brother of Rav Sala Hasida: ...when you set out on a journey, consult with your Creator, and then set out. The Gemara asks: What is the meaning of: Consult with your Creator, and then set out? Rabbi Ya’akov said that Rav Hisda said: That is the traveler’s prayer. And Rabbi Ya’akov said that Rav Hisda said: It is not only good advice, but established halakha that anyone who sets out on a journey must recite the traveler’s prayer prior to embarking on his journey.



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Tfilat Haderch in the siddur: The Travelers prayer we now say

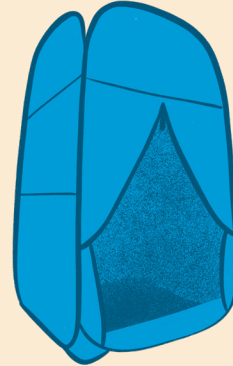
יהי רצון מלפניך יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שתוליכנו
 לשלום ותציעינו לשלום ותדריכנו לשלום, ותסמכנו
 לשלום, ותגיענו למחוז חפצנו לחיים ולשמחה
 ולשלום. אם דעתו לחזור מיד אומר ותחזירנו
 לשלום. ותצילנו מכף כל אויב ואורב ולקטים וחסות
 רעות בדרך, ומכל מיני פרעניות המתרגשות לבוא
 לעולם, ותתננו לחן ולחסד ולרחמים בעיניך ובעיני
 כל ראינו, כי אל שומע תפלה ותחנון אתה. ברוך
 אתה לפי נוסח ספרד יי שומע תפלה: כי מלאכיו
 יצוה לך לשמרך בכל דרכיך: יי ישמר צאתך ובואך
 מעתה ועד עולם: ויעקב הלך לדרכו ויפגעו בו
 מלאכי אלהים. ויאמר יעקב כששר ראם ר"ת רפאל
 אוראל מיכאל: מחנה אלהים זה, ויקרא שם המקום
 ההוא מחנים. וברכך יי וישמרך: יאר יי פניו אליך
 ויחנה: ישא יי פניו אליך וישם לך שלום:

May it be Your will, Lord, our God and the
 God of our ancestors, that You lead us
 toward peace, guide our footsteps toward
 peace, and make us reach our desired des-
 tination for life, gladness, and peace. May
 You rescue us from the hand of every foe,
 ambush along the way, and from all manner
 of punishments that assemble to come to
 earth. May You send blessing in our hand-
 iwork, and grant us grace, kindness, and
 mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all
 who see us. May You hear the sound of our
 humble request because You are God Who
 hears prayer requests. Blessed are You,
 Lord, Who hears prayer.

Tfilat Haderech By Debbie Friedman

May we be blessed as we go on our way
 May we be guided in peace
 May we be blessed with health and joy
 May this our blessing, amen.
 May we be sheltered by the wings of peace
 May we be kept in safety and in love
 May grace and compassion find their
 way to every soul
 May this be our blessing, amen.
 Amen, may this be our blessing, amen.

Pop Up Sukkah



The light weight PopUp Sukkah Bag, which
 jumps out of its case and expands into a
 6-foot-high tent, goes with you everywhere.
 With the Popup Sukkah you can set it up in
 a fraction of a second at home or on the go.
 This sukkah is designed for easy unfolding
 and setting up. After dismantling, it all fits in
 a circular bag for ease of transport.

Question for discussion:

Where would you like to pop up, if you
 could, and easily find shelter (ie, meet your
 needs) there?