

Lech Lecha: Hakarat HaTov

- Abraham Zigelman.

Why did Avraham stop back at the same hotels on his way back home? You took me in when I was down, now I return to you as symbol of appreciation. Avraham is teaching to look back at our past and not neglect those who were there for us in the past.

In this week's parsha Avraham returns to Eretz Knaan from Eretz Mitzrayim. He left Eretz K'naan because of the severe famine and he now returns with a great fortune of wealth ?BAMIKNEH, BAKESEF UVZAHAV? (13:2).

Rashi cites the Gemara Eiruvim 16B, that he stopped at the same places, motels on his return trip as he did on the way down to Mitzrayim. What is the significance of this behavior?

Many concepts are taught. When he went down he was not wealthy so he probably stayed in places where paupers find lodging. Now that he's wealthy and can afford 5 star hotels, he nevertheless returned to those places as an act of hakarat hatov.

"You took me in when I was down, now I return to you as symbol of appreciation."
Many times people are helpful when we are down and in need and when the wheels turn and fortune is in our favor we tend to associate with new friends and social circles.

We forget those that stood by us in time of need. Avraham is teaching to look back at our past and not neglect those who were there for us in the past.

Shabbat Shalom, Aharon Ziegler