

## "And I will bring you to the land... and I will give it to you (for) a heritage." (6:8)

*Eretz Yisrael* has been given to *Am Yisrael* as an inheritance. The concept of inheritance implies several lessons regarding our obligation to and relationship with *Eretz Yisrael*. A *yerushah*, inheritance, does not mandate a *kinyan*, a specific act of acquisition. The *yerushah* becomes the possession of the inheritor, even if his attention is diverted from it at the time. Wherever the inheritor may be, the inheritance becomes his possession. Likewise, notes *Horav Mordechai Ilan z.l.*, is *Eretz Yisrael's* relationship with us. Even when we are in *galus*, exile, it is kept guarded, waiting for our return. *Eretz Yisrael* is our inheritance.

The *Torah* is also referred to as *yerushah*. As it is stated in *Devarim* 33:4, "The *Torah* that Moshe commanded us, an inheritance for the congregation of Yaakov." In the *Talmud Sanhedrin 59a*, *Chazal* interpret this to suggest that one can not separate himself from his inheritance, since it is bequeathed to him regardless of his acquiescence. Similarly, one can not disengage himself from the *Torah*.

*Horav Mordechai Gifter, Shlita*, cites the *Baal HaTurim* who distinguishes between *vaurh* and *varun*, inheritance and heritage. He explains that *Eretz Yisrael* and the *Torah* are our *morashah*, heritage. What is the difference between a heritage and an inheritance? *Horav Gifter* explains that an inheritance belongs totally to the inheritor to do with as he pleases. Hence, once he has inherited the object/property, it is his unconditionally. A heritage is bequeathed to an individual for a specific purpose --to transmit it to the next generation. Thus, our *morashah*, the *Torah* and *Eretz Yisrael*, continues to belong to Hashem. It is ours for one limited purpose --to see to it that it is clearly conveyed to the next generation. This remarkable insight not only defines our relationship to *Torah*, but it also defines our obligation to future generations.