

THE CAUSE AND THE REASON

Background

When Pharaoh chased the Jewish Nation out of Mitzrayim, HASHEM guided them through the desert. Instead of taking them directly to Eretz Yisrael, HASHEM led them around in circles.

The *Dos Zakainim* explains that HASHEM said, "If I bring them directly into Eretz Yisrael, each man will be busy with his vineyard and his field and won't have an opportunity to learn Torah. Let me keep them in the desert for forty years. They will eat *mon* and drink water from the rock. That way, the Torah will have a chance to settle into them."

Questions

The *Dos Zakainim* is saying that the reason that the Jewish Nation spent forty years in the desert was that HASHEM wanted us to be able to learn and become the Torah Nation. Later on in *Bamidbar*, the *posukim* tell us clearly that staying in the desert forty years was a punishment for the sin of the spies. How do we reconcile this overt contradiction?

ספר שמות פרק יג

יז וַיְהִי בְשַׁלַּח פְּרָעָה אֶת הָעָם וְלֹא נָחַם אֱלֹהִים דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי קָרוֹב הוּא כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים פֶּן יִנָּחֵם הָעָם בְּרֹאֲתָם מִלַּחְמָה וְשָׁבוּ מִצְרָיִם:

And it came to pass that when Pharaoh let the people go, HASHEM did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistim because it was near, and HASHEM said, "Lest the people reconsider when they see war and return to Egypt."

דעת זקנים מבעלי התוספות על שמות פרק יג פסוק יז

אמר הקב"ה אם אני מוליכם דרך הישר עכשיו מחזיקין איש בשדהו ובכרמו ומבטלין תלמוד תורה אבל אני אוליכם ארבעים שנה דרך המדבר ויאכלו המן וישתו מי באר ותתישב בגופן.