מדרש

Midrash

ON GENESIS 12:1

Why did Abraham need to leave home to become great?

Bereshit Rabbah 39:2

Abraham is compared to a sealed flask of balsam oil whose fragrance remains hidden while it stays in its corner, but spreads once the flask is moved. Likewise, God tells Abraham that only by leaving his place and journeying forth—heeding the call of Lech Lecha (Go forth)—will his greatness and name become known throughout the world. Movement and change, not stagnation, are what reveal Abraham's true spiritual stature. AI SUMMARY

"The Lord said to Abram" – Rabbi Berekhya began: "By the fragrance of your good oils, your name is like poured oil" (Song of Songs 1:3). Rabbi Berekhya said: To what was Abraham our patriarch comparable? To a flask of balsam oil surrounded with a fastened cover, that was placed in a corner and its fragrance did not diffuse. When it was moved, its fragrance diffused. So, the Holy One blessed be He said to Abraham our patriarch: 'Move yourself from one place to another place, and your name will be exalted in the world.'