

## Rabbi's Column – February 3, 2020

A bit of a digression this week: Books.

Over time I have acquired a rather large number of books - both those that are at least tangentially related to what I have done for a living and those that are more for fun. I have also (although it might be hard to tell) given away an almost equally large number of books, usually before a move. Books cost money to move, as they weigh more than practically anything else by volume. [pun not quite intended]

So, over time, we have gotten rid of those college textbooks that are out of date; I have gotten rid of those series (some of them fairly large) which I enjoyed reading in High School and College but highly doubt I would enjoy as an older adult.

I am currently in another slight downsizing stage, more to help Andrea and Samuel with the eventual downsizing required (as I will not be able to take all of them with me into the ground). Now I am getting rid of some of those books and series I have enjoyed for years which the local library has copies of. That does mean that there are other authors whose works I am not getting rid of, as I have a more complete set of their works than the local library does.

Over time, I have taken less of our living space with my books. I have no books stored in the kitchen or bathrooms, for example.

In terms of Torah, this week we leave Egypt. In this week's portion, we are told that God did not let us take the shortcut between Egypt and Canaan in case when things got troublesome we would retreat back to Egypt. In Deuteronomy, Moses tells them that even with the midway destination of Mount Horeb, it is an 11 day trip from Horeb to Canaan, and here Moses is speaking to them 40 years later. Sometimes it seems like the only way to get anywhere is the long way around.

As we make our way through the week, let us hope that we are not unduly delayed - and if we are, may it be for all the right reasons.