Parsha and Manuscript: Massei

An analysis of Rashi's commentary through Oxford's Hebrew manuscripts regarding the reason for writing the journeys from Egypt: Rebuke or kindness?

Numbers Chapter 33

1. These are the journeys of the children of Israel who left the land of Egypt in their legions, under the charge of Moses and Aaron.

2. Moses recorded their starting points for their journeys according to the word of the Lord, and these were their journeys with their starting points.

Rashi

R. Tanchuma expounds it in another way. It is analogous to a king whose son became sick, so he took him to a far away place to have him healed. On the way back, the father began citing all the stages of their journey, saying to him, ‘This is where we slept, here we were cold, here you had a headache, etc.’

Midrash Tanchuma (Massei 3); Numbers Rabbah (23:3)

These are the journeys: It is analogous to a king whose son became sick, so he took him to a certain place to have him healed. On the way back, the father began to recount all the stages of their journey, saying to him, ‘This is where we slept, here we were cold, here you had a headache.’ So the Holy One, blessed be He, said to Moses: ‘Recount to them all the places where they provoked me.’ It therefore says: These are the journeys.

Manuscripts

CCC MS 165 12th century

MS. Oppenheim 34, fol. 96 (1201-1225)
MS. Canon. Or. 81, fol. 156 (1396)

MS. Canonici Or. 35, fol. 193 (1401-1425)

MS. Huntington 389, fol. 92 (1301-1400)