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## NEWS & VIEWS

June 29, 2017 | 5 Tammuz, 5777

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*Summer Edition | Hebrew College will be closed July 3 & 4*



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## From the Hebrew College Blog ([blog.hebrewcollege.edu](http://blog.hebrewcollege.edu))

### **SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH**

Posts from this Hebrew College-hosted blog are published weekly in [Huffington Post Religion](#).

## Pushing On Through the Wilderness Parashat Chukkat, Numbers 19:1-22:1

By Rabbi Daniel Klein  
*Associate Dean, [Rabbinical School of Hebrew College](#)*



It has become a cliché that in life, we should focus on the journey, not the destination—we are advised to “enjoy the ride” and “pick more daisies.” It is easy to imagine ourselves within the quintessential image of this sentiment: a carefree, smiling person, basking in the sunshine, driving down an open road with car windows open or the top down, wind blowing through her hair.

The Torah could be read as endorsing this approach to life. From the expulsion from Eden, to God’s great call to Abraham to “go forth,” to the Israelites’ forty years of wandering in the wilderness before reaching the Promised Land, the Torah appreciates life, and a life of meaning, as a journey more than a destination. Jewish tradition solidifies the centrality of this motif with our cycle of sacred biblical reading: each autumn we start the Torah at the beginning of Genesis, reading consecutive portions of the Torah each week until we complete Deuteronomy—and right when you might think we will go on to the Book of Joshua and into the Promised Land, we go back to the beginning, starting the cycle again, with Genesis and another year of wandering.

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