

## Life Lessons from New Zealand

By: Paul Kowarsky, on a trip to New Zealand

### The Torah commands us to 'Live Life' – '*Uvacharta Bachayim*'

Some people say; "life is a bitch." Other people say: "Life is wonderful." And there are those who say: "Life is what you make of it." Is it perspective, fortune or misfortune? I suppose that it depends on who you are, and how you live with all the calculations and the miscalculations, the fortunes and the misfortunes, which are the very lifeblood of the lives of each one of us.

Maybe we need to look at our own lives through the eyes of Kiwi Sheep, and how they live on the green pastures of New Zealand? Let's try:

*I am a Kiwi sheep, the pride of New Zealand. The ratio is 150 of us to 1 of them. But who cares about statistics?*

*What a wonderful life I lead here! I don't have to be concerned about who I am, self-worth, where I've been, what I've done (or haven't) or where I'm heading. I have neither regrets nor special aspirations. I don't have to go away somewhere to find myself because I always know where I am, and where I am supposed to be is always where I am.*

*I don't have to be an achiever, reach goals, constantly prove myself or win. I am not responsible for anyone's support nor do I have to be a special or trusted friend or to socialize with any particular people or be seen in the right places and company. What's more, I don't have to behave in any specific manner just to please or impress someone or to be concerned with having or losing a job or moving up the ladder, or being the best or most famous.*

*Life here in New Zealand is just perfect. My mates and I flock around, grazing the whole day. What's wrong with that? Every day I go out into the magnificent meadows, rolling green hills, filled with my favourite juicy food, and spend the day with my mates. We're all good buddies and there is no competition. We are not required to be bilingual or to learn English or Spanish or Danish. We all speak Sheepish, and we understand each other very well. Some of us know a little Cowish and Deerish, but it's not really necessary because the cows and the deer don't really say anything that important. At least, so I'm told.*

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*And we don't spread rumours or talk behind each other's backs (unless we're facing the opposite direction and eating). We also don't require any special toilet facilities. We simply relieve ourselves wherever and whenever we want. Now how's that for convenience?*

*Oh! And none of us has a specific name. We're all called SHEEP – first name and last. So we need not eat ourselves up alive about our given name if we don't like it. The menu is the same every day. It is served in the same way. There is no need to prepare or present it in any special way – and boy, do we LOVE the taste! So that is our routine each day, and we never worry about what to do tomorrow. Every day we stand around eating and eating and eating our favourite food. We don't have food allergies nor are we concerned about gaining weight or keeping fit.*

*We do not have dental or orthodontic problems, since our teeth are just fine. I never remember whether they are on the top or the bottom of my mouth, but it doesn't much matter where they are exactly.*

*Every now and then I am given a haircut (they call it shearing), and that's good 'cause I feel nice and cool afterwards. And I know that my precious wool will be made into gorgeous garments, carpets and ornaments for people all over the globe. I know from birth that my life will be happy, carefree and filling. Me and my mates – we love being together day and night. And when the farmer decides that my life must be ended, that's fine too. They don't hurt me in the process, and I know that ALL of me will be used for delicious cuisine, designer garments and cherished wooly items. So no worries mate.*

*I am a Kiwi Sheep  
And a very proud one too  
I was one in my last life  
And I'll be coming back to you.  
Yip! In mint condition.*