

PARSHAT BESHALACH
EXODUS 13:17-17:16
HAFTARAH JUDGES 4:4-5:31
11 SH'VAT 5786/29 JANUARY 2026



Camar Cande's Journey
Abdullah Al Saadi

THE LONG, SHORTER WAY

1. God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, because it was nearer....So God caused the people to turn by the way of the wilderness, Yam Suf (יַם־סוּף) (Exodus 13:17-18).

סוף – reeds, rushes

סוף – end, conclusion, death (סוּף כָּל־הָאָדָם, “the end of every human,” Ecclesiastes 7:2)

סוף – come to an end, cease

2. One time I was walking along the path, and I saw a young boy sitting at the crossroads. And I said to him: On which path shall we walk in order to get to the city? He said to me: This path is short and long, and that path is long and short. I walked on the path that was short and long. When I approached the city I found that gardens and orchards surrounded it. I went back and said to him: My son, didn't you tell me that this way is short? He said to me: And didn't I tell you that it is also long? I kissed him on his head and said to him: Happy are you, O Israel, for you are all exceedingly wise, from your old to your young. (Talmud, Eruvin 53b)

3. Sometimes a person has to go a very long distance out of his way to come back a short distance correctly. (Edward Albee, *The Zoo Story*)
4. Sometimes you have to go a long way to come back a short distance. (Abdullah Al Saadi)
5. The city is your own self. To become an inspired, connected being you need a path toward the most essential powers of your soul. It is a long journey. And yet, it is also a short one. Because the place to which you are traveling is very close. It is within you. It is who you truly are. (Based on the Tanya, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi)