

Maharal on the Sedra

KALEV'S RUSE

Bamidbar 14:24 - Since my servant Kalev was of another spirit, and followed after Me, I will bring him to the Land to which he came, and his children will inherit it.

Rashi - "Another" implies there were two spirits, his mouth and his heart. To the ten spies he said he was with them in their counsel, while in his heart he spoke the truth. Thus he was able to still them long enough to speak out, as it is written, "and Kalev hushed [them]" [13:30], for they thought he would speak out against entering the Land as they had. Kalev later says, "I brought [Moshe] back word as it was in my heart" [Yehoshua 14:7] - and not as it had been in my mouth.

Gur Arye - The "other spirit" does not refer to a different point of view than the ten spies, although that was also true. They deprecated the Land while he praised the Land, but that was not "another spirit", for these words connote a second spirit within Kalev himself. He appeared to side with the other spies in deprecating the Land, but his heart was of a different spirit, and when he had the people's attention he spoke his heart and praised the Land.

- Column prepared by Dr. Moshe Kuhr