



## PARASHAT VAYECHI

### מתי זוכה אדם למנוחה אמיתית?

כתוב בפסוק (מט:טו) "וירא מנוחה כי טוב... ויט שכמו לסבול". פסוק זה הסבירו הצדיק רבי יצחק מוורקא כך: "וירא מנוחה כי טוב" – מתי זוכה אדם למנוחה אמיתית? אם מקיים בעצמו "ויט שכמו לסבול" – גומר בלבו להיות סבלן ומוכן לסבול הכל.

### "May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menasheh"

After Yaakov blessed Ephraim and Menasheh, he added on (48:20) "By you shall Bnei Yisroel bless (their children) saying: May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menasheh". The children of Yosef were very dear to Yaakov, but Yaakov had many grandchildren, whom were all righteous. Why did Yaakov specifically say that all the future generations should be blessed to be like Ephraim and Menasheh, what was so special about these two? The Sefat Emet explains the distinction of Ephraim and Menasheh that although they were "second generation," thus at birth not on the same spiritual level as the Shevatim, they achieved their status by developing themselves to the point that they reached Shevatim status, as the Pasuk tells us (48:5): "Ephraim and Menasheh shall be mine like Reuvein and Shimon". In other words, while it is true that they did not have a higher status than the Shevatim, they developed themselves to equal them. This is the blessing of spiritual growth which every parent gives his children: "May you be like Ephraim and Menasheh; May you grow spiritually from strength to strength. The Sefat Emet is teaching us that a person should not be impeded by his natural abilities. Just as Ephraim and Menasheh worked hard and achieved, so can we.

### The Comparison to Fish

In this week's Parashah Yaakov gave the blessing (48:16) "And they should multiply like fish". The Medrash explains that Jews are compared to fish in the following way. Just as fish are in the water at all times, yet for every drop of rain that comes from the sky, the fish go for the rain drops with an unbelievable thirst, so too, we should have the same thirst for Torah. As much as we learn Torah we should always be thirsty for more.