



PARASHAT VAYEISHEV

התורה משמרת את האדם מהיצר הרע

כתוב בפסוק (לז:כד): "וישליכו אותו הברה והבור ריק אין בו מים". רש"י מפרש – מים אין בו אבל נחשים ועקרבים יש בו. העצה כנגד היצר הרע היא התורה, וכמו שאמרו חכמינו ז"ל "בראתי יצר הרע בראתי לו תורה תבלין". במקום שאין תורה, שם יש כל מיני נחשים ועקרבים - כוחות הרעים השולט על האדם וגורם אותו לחטוא. וזהו מה שרמז הפסוק "מים אין בו" – אם אין תורה הנקראת מים (אין מים אלא תורה) אז ודאי נחשים ועקרבים יש בו המזיקים את האדם. (מעינה של תורה)

No Break from Chinuch

This week's Parashah begins with the words (37:1) "VaYeishev Yaakov" – "And Yaakov settled". Rashi comments that Yaakov Avinu wanted to settle down to a peaceful life after all that had occurred to him throughout his lifetime; and that's when the trouble started with Yosef. Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l specifies that Yaakov wanted to rest from the chinuch of his children. Yaakov assumed that his children had all been brought up okay and now he could take a break. We learn from this a tremendous lesson; there is no break from child rearing, we must always be busy raising our children.

Speak Out Your Feelings

In describing the feelings of Yosef's brothers towards him the Pasuk states (37:4): "and they hated him and they were not able to speak to him for peace". Rabbi Yonatan Eibshutz Zt"l (1690-1764) commented that had the brothers spoken out their feelings to Yosef they would have been able to make peace. The root of the problem was that they were not talking to each other. Often this is what happens to people in the midst of a feud, each one does not want to speak it over with the other one, and the feud doesn't end.

Know What You Want

The Pasuk in this week's Parashah states (37:15): "And a man found him (Yosef) and there he was wandering in the field and the man asked him saying what do you seek?" Our Sages teach us that this was no ordinary man, but a Malach (angel). Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk expounded on this Pasuk that the Malach was teaching Yosef an important message that if he ever finds himself in a situation where he is "lost" and confused as to what to do, the first thing he needs to do is "seek" himself – he should first clarify to himself what he wants and what he

is striving for. This is an important lesson for us to internalize. If we would be clear about what we want, life wouldn't be as confusing.