

GROWTH

At The

SHABBAT TABLE

7th Edition
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PARSHAT

VAYIGASH

Intentions

When the dramatic moment finally played out, when Yosef saw his father for the first time in 22 years, Rashi makes a seemingly strange comment. The *pasuk* reads (46:29): *Yosef harnessed his chariot, and went up to meet Yisrael, his father, to Goshen; and he appeared to him, fell on his neck, and he wept on his neck excessively.* Rashi clarifies the words "and he appeared to him": *Yosef appeared to his father.*

Why did Rashi feel compelled to explain this rather simple point? The whole verse was speaking about Yosef; obviously it was Yosef that appeared before his father!

Rav David Yosef, *shlit"a*, recounted a profound explanation. To understand, try imagining what was going through Yosef's brain at the time. The emotion overtaking Yosef at the grand moment was extreme excitement and joy. For over two decades, after having endured many hardships, he hasn't seen his beloved father, the man who never stopped believing in him and loving him. What drove him in the direction of meeting his father were naturally his human instinctive emotions of ecstasy and elation.

However, Yosef also thought about his father. He realized that this reunion wouldn't just be a huge deal for himself, but this would be perhaps the greatest moment in his father's entire life! There would be no measurement to the happiness he would bring to his father just by reuniting together! Yosef realized that he would be fulfilling the Mitzvah of *kibbud av* in one of the highest forms, and so, he dedicated this long-awaited moment for the purposes of honoring his father. He transcended his personal human emotions of his own excitement and went to meet his father solely for the sake of *kibbud av*. This is what Rashi is hinting to; he's not stressing that it was Yosef who went to Yaakov and not vice versa; that's simple from context. Rashi means to emphasize the latter phrase: that Yosef appeared TO HIS FATHER – for the sole purpose of *kibbud av* and brining *nachat* to his father.

We, too, can take example from Yosef for our own lives. Find the l'shem Shamayim motive behind all your actions, even the mundane ones. In doing so, you strengthen your relationship with your Father in Heaven, and soon you see what it means to really live with Hashem in your life.

No Pain, No Gain

R' Moshe Malka shared a beautiful *meshal*.

There was a group of boys from yeshiva that went every day at recess to the park to play a ball game. As they walked down, there was an old man on a rocking chair, who would wave to them every day. One day, he stopped the boys and asked them, "Guys, would you mind giving me a hand? I need help with something in my house." The boys weren't too excited to miss out on their game, but the leader of the group, Dave, spoke up, "Come on guys, this is everything we've learnt about, let's go help the man." They followed the man to his house and were led down to the basement. The old man pointed to a bunch of boxes and told the boys, "I need these brought up to the attic." To the boys' dismay, there was no elevator. As they unenthusiastically reached for the boxes, they realized that some were extremely heavy, and others very light. Naturally, they all started finding the light boxes to carry up, but Dave exclaimed, "Come on, guys; you're going to leave the old man with the heavy boxes?? Let's go!" Some boys picked up the heavy boxes, and as they climbed up the long flight of stairs and deposited their boxes in the attic, the old man stared intently at each kid, inquiring their names and writing them on the labels of the boxes. After they all finished, he told them, "Sit down, boys. I watch you every day in the park, and I like you. I worked all my life, and I have a fortune to give. But, I never had any children... and I decided to give it all to you. Any box that you carried up, is yours." The boys, all shocked, opened the boxes and discovered that the heavy boxes were filled with bars of gold. And the boxes that were light were stuffed with pillows and blankets...

The Mishnah (Pirkei Avot 5:23) tells us: לפום צערא אגרא – according to the pain, is the gain. When it's heavy, it's gold. We often are bombarded with tests that seem impossible to overcome. Many times, taking the good path will feel hard. Where there's resistance, know that you'll succeed with persistence. People say "If you work hard you'll make a living." *If you work hard on yourself, you'll make a fortune.*

**"Emuna is not knowing what the future holds,
but knowing WHO holds the future."**

Refuah Sheleimah, b'toch she'ar cholei Yisrael:

Ariel Ben Frida
Rahamim Ben Shifra

Frida Bat Yaffa
Yitzhak Ben Naama

Miriam Bat Bakol
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