

## ME AND MY BIG MOUTH

### Background

In one of the last conversations that Yaakov Avinu has with his beloved son Yosef, he explains why he didn't give Rochel the proper respect when he buried her. He explains, "I know that for many years you had a complaint against me. Why didn't I at least bring her body into a city rather than burying her on the side of the road? But this wasn't something that I did on my own- HASHEM told me to do this – so that she could intercede on the Jews' behalf when they pass into exile."

The *Siftei Chachamim (Gur Aryeh)* explains that Yaakov didn't tell Yosef about this until then because the future exile of the Jewish people was bad news. Yaakov Avinu's policy was that he didn't tell over bad news. However, this was the last chance for him to explain to Yosef what he did, so he told him.

### Questions

For seventeen years, Yaakov lived in Mitzrayim – and didn't explain why he buried Rochel on the side of the road to Yosef. Yet he knew that eventually he would tell Yosef the reason since it was something that Yosef needed to understand.

Why wait the seventeen years and have his beloved son harbor a question on him for all that time? Why not just tell him right away and eliminate all the years of tension and misgivings?

#### ספר בראשית פרק מח

ז וְאֲנִי בָבְאִי מִפְּדַן מֵתָה עָלַי  
רְחֵל בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן בְּדֶרֶךְ בְּעוֹד  
כְּבָרְת אֶרֶץ לְבֵא אֶפְרַתָּה  
וְאֶקְבְּרָה שָׁם בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶפְרַת הוּא  
בֵּית לָחֶם:

*And I when I came from Padan, Rochel died in the land of Canaan on the road to Ephras, and I buried her there on the road. That is Bais Lechem.*

#### רש"י על בראשית פרק מח פסוק ז

ואקברה שם - ולא הולכתיה אפי' לבית לחם להכניסה לארץ וידעתי שיש בלבך עלי אבל דע לך שע"פ הדבור קברתיה שם שתהא לעזרה לבניה כשיגלה אותם נבוזראדן והיו עוברים דרך שם יצאת רחל על קברה ובוכה ומבקשת עליהם רחמים שנא' (ירמיה לא) קול ברמה נשמע וגו' והקב"ה משיבה יש שכר לפעולתך נאם ה' וגו' ושבו בנים לגבולם

*I did not even take her into Bais Lechem. I buried her along the road. I know that you have a complaint in your heart against me. However, you should know that it was according to HASHEM's command that I buried her there so that she should be an aid to her children when Nevuzaradan would exile them. They would pass by her grave, and Rachel would cry and ask mercy for them.*