

OLAM HABBAH, THE ULTIMATE MOTIVATOR

Questions

We see that HASHEM is “angry” with Yaakov Avinu for wanting to sit in tranquility. It is difficult to understand what is wrong with Yaakov Avinu’s desire.

First off, he suffered bitterly during his lifetime. He was chased out of his parents’ home by his own brother, Aysav. He then spent twenty-one years working tirelessly in the fields of Lavan, all the while being duped and cheated. Then his daughter Dena was raped, and in retaliation, his sons killed out an entire town, so he had to ready himself for the retribution of the surrounding nations. His life was so difficult that it is very hard to imagine that Yaakov Avinu is asking for a life of luxuries. He isn’t asking for a beachfront property so that he can soak up the sun. He is most likely asking for a cessation from suffering so that he can better focus on his service to HASHEM.

Secondly, HASHEM says, “Isn’t what is prepared for the *tzaddik* in the World to Come enough?” That doesn’t seem to address the issue. If HASHEM feels that Yaakov Avinu is having a problem with *emunah*, then the complaint should be, “Each drop of suffering is for your good,” or “You should trust in HASHEM’s master plan.” But how do these words “Isn’t what is prepared for you in the World to Come enough?” address what would seem to be a lack in *emunah* or understanding of how HASHEM runs the world?

ספר בראשית פרק לז

א) וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ
מְגוּרֵי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:
אֵלֶּה תְּלֻדוֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּן
שִׁבְעָה עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה

**רש"י על בראשית פרק לז
פסוק ב**

ועוד נדרש בו וישב
ביקש יעקב לישב בשלוח
קפץ עליו רוגזו של יוסף
צדיקים מבקשים לישב
בשלוח אומר הקב"ה
לא דיין לצדיקים מה
שמתוקן להם לעוה"ב
אלא שמבקשים לישב
בשלוח בעוה"ז

– וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב – Because Yaakov asked to sit in tranquility, he was accosted by the events that befell Yosef. HASHEM says, “*Tzaddikim* ask to have tranquility in this world? Isn’t it enough for the *tzaddikim* to have that which is prepared for them in the World to Come? They ask to sit in comfort in this world?”