

WITH PERFECT FAITH

Background

After more than twenty years separation, Aysav went out to greet his brother. However, not only didn't he come in peace, he went out with 400 armed men ready to go to war. When Yaakov recognized the gravity of the situation, he had two reactions: he was greatly afraid and he had pain.

The *Dos Zakainim* tells us that he was afraid of the merit of Aysav. Since Aysav treated his parent with great respect, Yaakov was afraid of the merit of that *mitzvah*. And so Yaakov was afraid. . .

Yaakov had pain . . . because of his lack of *bitachon* in HASHEM. After all, HASHEM promised to protect him. So the fact that he feared Aysav was a lack of *bitachon* in HASHEM, and that lack of *bitachon* caused him pain.

Questions

These two points seem to be in utter contradiction. If Yaakov had a good reason to be afraid of Aysav because of the *mitzvah* of *kibud av*, then it wasn't a lack of *bitachon* to be afraid of him. Why did he have pain from his being afraid of Aysav when that fear was appropriate and proper?

ספר בראשית פרק לב

(ז) ויירא יעקב מאד ויצר לו ויחץ את העם אשר אתו ואת הצאן ואת הבקר והגמלים לשני מחנות:

And Yaakov was filled with great fear and was in pain, and he separated the people, the sheep, the cattle, and the camels into two camps.

פירוש בעלי התוספות על בראשית פרק לב פסוק ח

ויירא יעקב. פי' שיועיל לעשו כבוד אב ואם והוא לא כבד אב ואם כבר עבר כ' שנה

He was afraid that the mitzvah of kibud av would help Aysav, since Yaakov hadn't fulfilled this mitzvah for more than twenty years.

ויצר לו מיצר היה יעקב על שהיה ירא מעשו מאחר שהבטיח הקב"ה

And he had pain because of his fear of Aysav after HASHEM promised him.