

PLAN YOUR LIFE; LIVE YOUR PLAN

Background

Dovid Hamelech had a number of wives and had children from each of them. His oldest son, who was to inherit the throne, was Amnon. Dovid had two other children from a different wife: Avshalom and Tamar. The *posuk* describes Tamar as being extremely beautiful. Amnon fell in love with her. In the end, he propositioned her. She refused. He then raped her. After raping her, he threw her out. And the *posuk* describes that he hated her more than he had loved her before.

ספר שמואל ב פרק יג

טו) וַיִּשְׂנְאָה אֲמֹנוֹן שְׂנֵאָה גְדוֹלָה מְאֹד כִּי גְדוֹלָה הָיְתָה אֲשֶׁר שְׂנְאָה מֵאֲהָבָה אֲשֶׁר אָהָבָה וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ אֲמֹנוֹן קוּמִי יָכִי

Abarbanel (there):

The nature of this lowly act is that when it is complete, a man feels a great regret and hatred, as in the common expression, "The wicked are filled with regrets." Therefore, Amnon no longer wished to see her because of his regret for what he had done.

Questions

Before doing this act, Amnon was lovesick for Tamar. When he completed the act, not only didn't he love her, he actually hated her more than he used to love her. How are we to understand such a sudden and drastic change in emotion? If just a short while ago, Amnon was so lovesick that every morning he woke up distraught, how can this one act turn that love to hate?

After all said and done, this was an act that he chose to do. No one forced him, so clearly it was something he desired. So even if we understand that he now regrets what he did, how does that explain how his love would now turn to hate?