



## TORAH 4 TEENS

### BY TEENS NCSU ISRAEL



### Julianna Tobin Raanana Chapter Director

### Who is the Canaanite Woman?

It says in this week's Parsha (Genesis 46, 10) "Shimon's sons: ... and Saul the son of a Canaanite woman". On this pasuk there is a very strange Rashi that quotes the Midrash: "The son of a Canaanite woman is the son of Dinah, who had been associated with a Canaanite (Shechem). When they (her brothers Shimon and Levi) had killed Shechem, Dinah refused to leave the city until Shimon swore to her that he would marry her and regard the child she was about to bear as his own".

We see that Shimon married Dinah. But how can a brother marry his sister?

Rabbi Ovadya Bartenura attempts to answer this question and says that according to Chazal with each of the 12 kids of Yaakov there was born a twin sister. A few of the twins married the other of the 12 brothers but only married a brother from another mother. Still, Dinah marrying Shimon is very strange since they are from the same mother. So how did they marry each other?

An interesting answer to this is found

in the Shut Kaneh. According to Chazal Leah was going to have a boy (Yosef) and Rachel a girl (Dinah) but Leah davened to switch the babies from their stomach. That's how Rachel had Yosef, and Leah had Dinah. Therefore, because Dinah was originally conceived in Rachel's stomach (which is the important part of the pregnancy), she has ties to being the daughter of Rachel and not Leah and now can marry Shimon.

May we continue to place our faith in Chazal to help us discover answers to our most difficult queries. Shabbat shalom. ■



### Rosie Dauber 10th Grade, Raanana

Parshat Vayigash concludes the story of Yosef and his brothers. Yosef reveals himself to the brothers and is reunited with his father after twenty-two years. Twenty-two years is a long time to go with absolutely no contact with a parent, so you may ask the question; why didn't Yosef try to reach out to Yaakov during that time? Parshat Vayeshev tells us the last time Yaakov and Yosef had seen each other. We learn that Yosef shared the dreams he was having with Yaakov and how in each dream Yosef's whole family bowed down to him. Yaakov became

angry with Yosef for thinking so highly of himself, and immediately rebuked him and sent him to go check on his brothers - alone. Yaakov fully understood his sons' harsh feelings toward Yosef; certainly he may have known that they might try to harm him, so why would he send Yosef to them knowing this danger? What else could Yosef have thought other than that his father wanted to hurt him? We can infer from this episode that perhaps Yosef decided not to be in touch with his father during those years because he assumed his father was at a minimum angry with him, if not worse.

When Yosef named his first son Menasheh, Yosef did so because he believed Hashem made Yosef "forget" all his troubles at his father's house. The word father is obviously placed there because Yosef believed that it wasn't just his brothers who had sold him, but his father too. There was no way for Yosef to have known that Yaakov had mourned his death, so Yosef had always assumed his father was still angry with him. In the beginning of Vayigash, Yehudah tells Yosef that after Yaakov's "perceived" loss of Yosef, Yaakov was emotionally torn to pieces; there could be no way that Yaakov could possibly endure another loss in the form Binyamin. If Binyamin were to die, Yaakov would perish as well. When Yosef heard and understood this point, he began to cry and immediately revealed himself to his brothers. Finally, after 22 years of struggle and self-search, Yosef realized that his father had forgiven and loved

him, as Yaakov had always loved him for Yosef's whole life.

Family relationships are complicated, emotional and not always fair as seen through the lens of our forefathers and mothers. But I think it's safe to say that parents love their children, even when children don't always see or even appreciate that love. ■

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