



RABBI SHALOM

ROSNER

Rav Kehilla, Nofei HaShemesh
Maggid Shiur, Daf Yomi, OU.org
Senior Ra"m, Kerem B'Yavneh

Perception of Others

In this week's parsha we find two distinct examples of the significance of how one perceives another. We will explore the way in which Yosef was viewed by his brothers and then the way in which Yosef observed his father.

Brothers Perception of Yosef

Yaakov instructs Yosef to check on his brothers. As Yosef approaches his brothers the Torah tells us: וַיֵּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ מֵרֶחֶק - *And they saw him from a distance.*" (Bereshit 37:18). Rav Yosef Soloveitchik (Masoret HaRav) offers an insightful interpretation of this pasuk. Although Yosef sought to come close to his brothers, they distanced themselves from him. They viewed him from afar. Their perception of Yosef was on a superficial level. They were unable to recognize his special and unique qualities.

Yosef is described as a handsome individual. בְּרֵאת יוֹסֵף בֶּן פְּרָת מְלִיטָיו בָּנוֹת צְעֵדָה - *A charming son is Yoseph, a son charming to the eye; [of the] women, [each one] strode along to see him.* (Bereshit 49:22). His brothers thought that personal holiness, a pure heart and a modest soul were inconsistent with Yosef's concern for his appearance

and apparent arrogance in relaying his dreams. Yosef's father grasped that the deceptively attractive external reflected an inner light. That his dreams depicted not personal aspirations but a prophecy. Essentially, Yosef's brother's transgression was their attempt to block his visionary power. As the saying goes: "don't judge a book by its cover."

All too often we judge others based on their appearance. We perceive them based on a superficial evaluation before actually comprehending their true essence. We are told that the Beit HaMikdash was destroyed because of *sinat chinam*- hatred for no reason. Therefore, some suggest we ought to have *ahavat chinam* – we should love others for no reason. No reason? That is terrible! What is preferable is to find the hidden light in others. To search up close (rather than from afar like Yosef's brothers) and find the special character in our fellow man. To sincerely appreciate them after getting to know them, rather than superficially acting as if we do. That is the lesson we are to internalize from Yosef's brother's shortcoming.

Yosef's Perception of Yaakov

There is another episode in the parsha that deals with one's perception of others. At the beginning of the parsha Yosef is referred to as "*Ben Zekunim*". Some interpret this to mean that Yosef found

favor in Yaakov's eyes because he gave birth to him when Yaakov was older. Yet, Yaakov had Binyamin at an even older age. Rashi explains –for his (Yosef's) features (זיו איקונין) resembled his own (those of Yaakov). The Bat Ayin offers an interesting interpretation, based on Rashi. What led Yaakov to favor Yosef is that he recognized that Yosef admired and aspired to be like Yaakov. As opposed to the other children, Yosef viewed Yaakov as a clear role model and followed his every move so he could learn from him. In fact, when Yosef was almost seduced by Potifar's wife, Hazal tell us that he was able to withstand the pressure because he saw Yaakov's face in a window (perhaps a reflection of himself) and did not want to disappoint his father by engaging in inappropriate behavior.

This teaches us the importance of selecting proper role models from whom we can learn proper *midot*. In today's society, athletes and actors are placed on a pedestal and children look up to them. We ought to set an example by highlighting our personal role models and by acting in a consistent manner so that our children seek to mimic Torah scholars, who exemplify proper values and character traits.

We see two diametrically opposed types of perception in the parsha. The brother's perception of Yosef was superficial and flawed. Yosef's perception of his father was sincere and used to enhance his own personal *midot* and *yirat shamayim*. May we take care when evaluating others, both friends and potential role models, so that we can improve our relationships and character. ■

תיווך המלאך
Angel Realty

www.angelrealty.co.il

For Sale in The Village, Zayit, Eftat
Stunning 210m 8 room cottage, 2 private parking spots, central A/C.
4,800,000 NIS

For Sale in Dagan, Efrat
Stunning 8 room cottage, middle unit. 3 floors, 230m. **5,250,000 NIS**

For Sale in Gefen, Efrat
Beautiful 5 room duplex garden
2,850,000 NIS

For Sale in Dagan, Efrat
5 room garden apt. 120 meters
2,990,000 NIS

For Sale in Olive Project, Zayit, Efrat
Gorgeous 4 room apt. 120m.
2,850,000 NIS

For sale in Zayit, Efrat
6 room duplex apt. **2,850,000 NIS**
Contact Gabi for more info
0524588716

Bs"ד



SEALING SERVICES AND ROOFING

- Leak detection + moisture
- Sealing solutions
- Water damage
- Roof coating
- Waterproofing, pools, porches, stone walls, tiled roofs
- High standard interior - exterior painting 🇫🇮
- Licensed & insured

Mold
mildew
expert

Shmuel34@hotmail.com
www.freshcoatpainters.co.il

052-840-5660