A SHORT VORT

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ויאמר אם יבוא עשו אל המחנה האחת והכהו והיה המחנה הנשאר לפליטה (לב:ט)

"And he said: If Eisav will come to one of the camps and strike it, the camp which is left will be able to escape." (32:9)

The Sifsei Chachamim (Rabbi Shabttai Bass 1641-1718, Poland) quoting the Maharshal (Rabbi Shlomo Luria 1510-1573) asks how can Yaakov make this declaration with such surety that at least one camp will survive? Would it not have been more correct to add the word "perhaps" in the statement, "**perhaps** the camp that is left will escape"? How can Yaakov be so sure that Eisav and his army would not annihilate both camps?

One can answer that Yaakov had previously received the Divine promise "And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth." (28:14) Yaakov may have been unsure how this promise would be fulfilled but he was still certain that his family would survive. Therefore, Yaakov concluded that the best chances for survival were to split the camp and not to cluster together.

The Chofetz Chaim (Rabbi Kagan 1838-1933, Radin) upon the rise to power by Hitler ym"s in 1933, was asked what the fate of the Jewish people will be. He responded by quoting this pasuk. If G-d forbid a portion of us will be decimated, others will survive as the prophet Ovadiah foresees (1:17) using the same word "pleitah": "But on Mt. Zion there will be a remnant/those who escape."

- Shabbat Shalom