



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Mikeitz

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max

Written over by Mordechai Fromowitz

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When Yosef was going down to Mitzrayim, Yaakov thought he had been killed. The Pasuk (Bereishis 37,35) says, "And his father wept for him." There are various interpretations for who "his father" and "him" are, between Yitzchok, Yaakov and Yosef. The Ralbag brings down an explanation that both Yitzchok and Yaakov didn't know what really happened to Yosef, even though they were prophets because they were too sad to receive prophecy at that time.

The Ralbag brings this down as one of the reasons we shouldn't be too sad because it takes away prophecy! But one can ask - why is this a reason to not be sad? We aren't on the level to get prophecy anyway nowadays! What is the Ralbag saying?

It must be that we really are to receive prophecies on some level even nowadays! We are able to achieve such a closeness to Hashem that it is akin to prophecy without being actual prophecy. And sadness, which detracts from prophecy, detracts from that closeness as well! We can reach such a high level that we can't even believe!