



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Vayeishev

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When Yosef was going down to Mitzrayim, the Pasuk (39,2) says “And Hashem was with Yosef...” The Da’as Zekeinim is bothered by what that means and he gives a parable. If someone has 10 donkeys carrying wine for him in the street, and one of them walks off the path and goes into a nonjew’s house, the owner will leave the other wine in the street to chase this one donkey wine to insure the wine doesn’t become non-kosher! **So too, Hashem did this as well! He (so to speak) left his other affairs and “went” to Yosef to make sure that Yosef wouldn’t learn from the ways of Mitzrayim!**

Step one is to of course understand that Yosef was a tremendous tzaddik. He certainly found all the ways of Mitzrayim repulsive. He grew up in Yaakov’s house and lived a life of fulfillment and joy and clarity about his life. He would never want to exchange that life for the lifestyle of Mitzrayim! **And yet there was still a concern - a real concern, just like the wine in the parable that was really at risk, that Yosef would learn from their ways!** Someone can be affected by people around them even when they know and love what they have, and are genuinely repulsed by what the people around them are doing! It’s vomit to him! How can level 100 people be affected by -100 people?! Of course we must say that it would only affect Yosef on a small level and that is certainly how we should understand this. But let’s look again at the parable with the wine. It was an emergency! Code Red! The owner left his donkeys in the street to save the one in danger! Which means the Da’as Zekeinim is telling us that Yosef being affected on this small level was an emergency! It was a 5 alarm fire! “Abandon everything else” and run and help Yosef from this dakei dakos (infinitesimal) danger he is in! **Dakei Dakos changes in our life aren’t dakei dakos. They’re 5 alarm fires!**