



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Toldos

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The Midrash Rabbah on this week's Parsha (68:4) discusses the fact that Hashem is the one that makes shidduchim. A noblewoman questioned Reb Yosi that it isn't that hard to make shidduchim. She then tried to do it on her own by setting up many of her many of her servants and maidservants and had disastrous results! **He then said to her that it may seem easy, but it's as difficult for Hashem as the splitting of the sea!**

The Yefei Tohar asks the following question. Don't we see many righteous people married to a bad spouse?! How are we to explain this? He explains that it must be because of the concept that Hashem punishes the righteous in this world to prepare them for the World to Come! He then adds that we also see wicked people who merit righteous spouses. He explains this in three separate ways.

1. She can have a good influence on him and help him repent
2. If he doesn't repent, he will get rewarded in this world by having this righteous wife.
3. To cleanse the righteous spouse from their own few sins that they committed.

Let's focus on answer #2. The Wicked person is rewarded in this world by having a good wife!? What kind of reward is that? Every time he wants to do something forbidden, she always spoils his fun! She probably constantly puts pressure on him to live a different life than he wants to live, so how can we call that a reward?

We see from here that even for a wicked person, when his wife forces him to go to davening and a shiur, not to rob banks, and to only eat in Kosher restaurants, he is really enjoying it! Because his Neshama feels good doing good things even if he consciously is kicking and screaming! Those good feelings of enjoyment so outweigh the negative that when his wife forces him to do the right thing, that's called a reward!