

Parshas Vayigash

Shmuz by Rabbi Yehoshua Fromowitz Written over by Moshe Reuvein Sussman 3 Teiveis 5782 December 7th 2021

The Pasuk (45,17-21) discusses Pharoah's speaking to Yosef about getting Yaakov and his family to move to Mitzrayim. Pharaoh mentions bringing wagons from MItzrayim to transport Yaakov and his entire family and telling Yaakov that in Mitzrayim "all the good" of Mitzrayim would be at their disposal.

The Seforno wonders about the need to send the wagons and he explains that when Yaakov sees the weapons "prepared" he will not find an excuse to delay and refuse, and in fact the Pasuk says that when Yaakov saw the wagons, he decided to go to Mitzrayim.

We can safely assume that Yaakov had many compelling reasons to go to Mitzrayim like seeing his son, and getting his family out of starvation. He also probably had many compelling reasons why not to go - uprooting his entire family, leaving Eretz Yisrael (see Rashi), as well as the dangers of assimilation and the immorality of Mitzrayim. Yaakov probably had an inkling that going to Mitzrayim was the beginning of the exile of the B'nei Yisrael. Theoretically, Yosef may have been able to come to Yaakov. This was a tremendous shayla!! And Pharoah sending wagons would help?! Because they're prepared and ready to go?! And the pasuk testifies that that in fact played a role in Yaakov's decision?!

What we see from here is that people are influenced by things and opportunities right in front of them and ready to go. Probably for both positive and negative. We have an impetuous side to us, and when we're driven to do something, like seeing our son we haven't seen in many years, the opportunity to jump right in and go, is very very compelling! Someone may have a huge decision which Yeshiva to go to, but one is closer and they sent an Uber so i'll go there!! And if something is bad for me and all it is is a click of the button then my impetuous nature will drive me there because it's so ready and prepared! We see from here how our impetuous nature is a driving force within us and we must be aware of that and use it to our advantage!