



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Vayishlach

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When Yaakov warned Lavan and Lavan kept on changing his wages, he used a method with sticks to make the sheep give birth to the kind of sheep he was getting paid, and he became very rich. Lavan's sons said - "He has taken everything from our father, and from our father he has accumulated all of his wealth." (31,1)

The Ramban says that even though Lavan had many sheep, because all the other-colored sheep were blessed because of Yaakov as well, they still cried out because of their jealousy of Yaakov.

We see here how overpowering jealousy is! The sons of Lavan knew that it was Yaakov who had brought you so much blessing, and they must have acknowledged on some level that it was from the Divine assistance that Yaakov brought forth! And they were still quite wealthy themselves! **Jealousy still reared its ugly head and they were able to sincerely say the statement that they have nothing!**