

**פסח א' – Children and Potential**

בס''ד

לר''ש צביה בת יהודית

וְהָיָ֕הכִּֽי־יֹאמְר֥וּאֲלֵיכֶ֖םבְּנֵיכֶ֑םמָ֛ההָעֲבֹדָ֥ההַזֹּ֖אתלָכֶֽם וכו' וַאֲמַרְתֶּ֡םזֶֽבַח־פֶּ֨סַחוְאֶת־בָּתֵּ֣ינוּהִצִּ֑ילוַיִּקֹּ֥דהָעָ֖םוַיִּֽשְׁתַּחֲוֽוּ: (שמות יב' כו'-כז')

*“When your children ask you – what is this Avoda to you? Etc. and you will tell them that it’s a Karbon Pesach for Hashem Who saved us.” The people heard this and they bowed down*

Rashi explains that the Yidden bowed down out of joy upon hearing the news that they were going to have children. Harav Moshe Feinstein brings from the Sifri that when the wordבנים*children* is used, it usually refers to those who follow in the ways of their parents.

The problem is that this Posuk is written in response to the question of the Rasha. As the previous Posuk writes, וְהָיָ֕הכִּֽי־יֹאמְר֥וּאֲלֵיכֶ֖םבְּנֵיכֶ֑םetc. To which we answer – וַאֲמַרְתֶּ֡ם etc. Surely the Rasha can’t be called “following in the ways of his parents”?

Harav Moshe answers, even if the child is a Rasha, as long as he is placed in the right environment where he is surrounded by Erliche Yidden and TalmideyChachomim, it will be easier for him to correct his ways. He might be called a Rasha now, but this positive atmosphere will enable the good of the child to emerge.

Therefore even the child who is a Rasha now, can still be called a child “following in the ways of his parents”, because *potentially* he is able to reconnect easily.

This is why Klal Yisroel celebrated the news. They were happy to hear that they were to be blessed with children, because they understood the value of their potential, including even the child who is a Rasha.

Reb Nachum Yasser zt"l once heard some Youngerleit discussing a Rambam about Teshuva, and they commented that they found it difficult to believe that someone's status could change so quickly and easily. How could it be that only yesterday Hashem hated him, and today he is beloved?

Reb Nachum had a son who unfortunately had gone off the Derech. He usually didn’t speak about this son because it caused him too much distress. But now, he looked at these men discussing this topic and he said, "Believe me, if my wayward son would enter the BeisMedresh right now, come over to me and say that he is ready to be a religious Yid, I would welcome him with open arms. His status with me would change in a moment. This is what happens when a Yid does Teshuvah. I love him so much.”