

**Rabbi Kacev**

**for 6 Dec.2008**

**PARSHAT VAYETZE**

The Parsha is filled with images that repeat themselves. One of these is the dreams of Ya'akov. In the beginning of the Parsha there is the famous dream of the ladder reaching the heavens "and behold Hashem was upon him and said to him." Towards the end of the Parsha, 22 years later, waiting to leave the house of Lavan, he will tell his wives of another dream that he had. In this dream "an angel said to me...raise your eyes and see the sheep...remember the oath which you took"

There is the obvious connection between the episodes of the oath he makes at the first dream and his being reminded of it twenty years later. Yet there is another very clear message that emerges upon comparison of these two dreams. In the first Hashem appears to him and he dreams of reaching the heavens. Twenty two years on an angel appears to him and he is dreaming of sheep and their mutations.

Ya'akov realizes that if his dreams have changed so drastically, it must be time to leave. What we aspire to comes out in our dreams and this reflects in our very nature. Reb Tzaddok Hakohein Mi Lublin says we can learn a lot about a person from their dreams, being a good measure of their aspirations.

The Torah purposefully shares with us the two dreams so that we too remember to reflect on our dreams, our aspirations. I suppose to keep us focused on climbing up the right ladders.

Shabbat Shalom

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