

## Long Lasting Effects

In this week's *Torah* portion, *Vayechi*, *Yaakov* tells *Yosef* that your sons that were born before I came down to Egypt, *Ephraim* and *Menashe*, are mine. *Rashi* understands the statement to mean that *Yaakov* has a greater connection with the sons born before he came down to Egypt than to *Yosef's* future children that would be born while he would reside in Egypt. *Rashi* notes that this statement also has a practical application. Only these two sons born before *Yaakov's* arrival are to be counted as part of the twelve tribes and receive an inheritance in the land of Israel. A question then arises. Wouldn't it be natural to assume that the sons born while *Yaakov* is living in Egypt would have a greater connection with *Yaakov* being raised under his guidance as opposed to the sons who were already grown when their grandfather arrived?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein *Zatzal* says this *passuk* illustrates a great lesson about *chinuch* - educating our children. *Yaakov's* message to *Yosef* was simply defining successful parenting. He is saying to *Yosef* that the *chinuch* I, *Yaakov*, gave you enabled you to raise your children true to the values of *Torah* even in a foreign land without my presence.

Educating one's children to learn the values that are dear to us is a daunting task, and its true measure of success is recognized even more so when one's children leave home and take those lessons with them. Therefore, a parent does not have to be close by watching every move his/her child makes. Parents need to give their children the tools, life lessons, and values to make the right choices wherever they may be.

May we all follow in the footsteps of our forefather *Yaakov* and instill in our children a deep appreciation of who we are and for what we live.