

Adapted from the sefer חדוותא דזעיר אנפין and חמין במוצאי שבת collections of maamarim
given by the Tolner Rebbe shlita at Seuda Shlishis and Melave Malka

Seuda Shlishis Parshas Toldos ('חדוותא דזעיר אנפין תולדות מאמר י')

Once, when I had the zechus of speaking with the Gerer Rebbe, the Beis Yisrael, zy"a, he related something that took place when he accompanied his father, the Imrei Emes, zy"a, on a visit to Eretz Yisrael.

The visit took place during the winter, and as was his practice, the *Beis Yisrael* went out to search for wisdom wherever he could find it. His quest led him to *Beit Hamidrash Beit El* in the Old City. There, he sat among the *chachmei sefard* in order to absorb their Torah wisdom.

One day, his father was looking for him, and didn't find him. When he returned, the *Imrei Emes* asked him where he had been, and he told him that he had been learning in *Beit El*. He then told his father that one of the *chachamim* had asked a question about a *pasuk* in *Parshas Toldos*.

(בראשית כ"ו:ל) - And Eisav - וַיּאמֶר עֵשָּׂו אֶל יַעֲקֹב הַלְעִיטֵנִי נַא מֵן הָאָדֹם הָאָדֹם הַזֶּה (בראשית כ said to Yaakov, Please feed me from this red food. His use of the word נא please is surprising.

From the *Midrash Tanchuma* (י"א הובא ברש"י כ"ז:כ"ב), we learn that this was not the typical way that Eisav spoke.

"As soon as Eisav entered, he began to call to his father with intentional disrespect,



(בראשית כ"ז:לא) אַבִּי וְיאַכָל מִצֵּיד בְּנוֹ (בראשית כ"ז:לא) - My father should rise and eat from that which his son has hunted. However, Yaakov didn't speak this way. Instead, he said נא - Please, a term of polite request. קוּם נָא שְׁבָה וְאָכְלָה - Please get up, be seated, and eat. (בראשית כ"ז:ל"א). He humbly requested that Yitzchak Avinu perform those three actions. Whereas that rasha (Eisav) said יַקָּם אָבִי וִיאַכָל."

The chacham went on to ask why Eisav referred to the food as being red. Chazal (:בא בתרא ט"ז:) - teach us that Yaakov was preparing lentil soup. While it is true that raw lentils are red, when cooked, they change from red to a much lighter color.

The chacham now resolved both of his questions with one chidush. While the word נא can mean "please", however, it can also mean raw, or not fully cooked. The pasuk which tells us that we are forbidden to eat the Korban Pesach before it is fully roasted states: אַל תּאֹכְלוּ מִמֶּנוּ נָא
שׁמוֹת י"ב:ט).

When Eisav said האכילני בי - he was so ravenous, that he wanted to eat the lentil soup even before it had time to fully cook. At that stage of the cooking, the lentils would indeed have been red. Hence, Eisav referred to it as האדום האדום

The Imrei Emes greatly enjoyed this peirush. The next year, on Shabbos Parshas Toldos, the Imrei Emes was back in Gur. He began his divrei Torah by saying that he heard a wonderful peirush from his son, in the name of chachmei hasfardim. By praising the peirush, he also demonstrated that he was very pleased by his son's practice of going to acquire Torah from each and every community.

We too must learn to develop this *midah* of קונה הכל - acquiring wisdom of Torah and *avoda* from anyone, and anywhere possible. The Torah is so vast and mighty, that is contains countless ways and approaches. Therefore, you can find "jewels" of Torah wisdom in every community, whether Chasidish, Litvish, Sfardi, Teimani, and more.



We constantly saw this *mida* in the *avoda* of the *Beis Yisrael zy"a*. He would visit the Gaon Rav Tzvi Kinstlicher zt"l, who came from Hungary, and the Gaon Rav Yosef Adler zt"l, the Rav of Torda, who came from Romania. He regularly visited the Tchebiner Rav zt"l, who came from Galicia. He also would occasionally visit the Sochatchover Rebbe zy"a, the *Gaon* Rav Yaakov Moshe Charlap zt"l, and the Gaon Rav Yechezkel Avramsky zt"l. He also visited the *chacham* Rav Mantzur ben R. Shimon zt"l. When he stayed in Chaifa, he always visited my father-in-law Rav Yaakov Yitzchak Weissblum zt"l who was a direct descendant of Rav Elimelech of Lizhensk zy"a, Rav Yehuda Tzvi of Zeidichov, and the Stretiner Rebbe zy"a.

Chazal teach us שבעים פנים לתורה - the Torah has seventy different facets. We must learn from the example of the *Beis Yisrael zy"a*, and realize that we can acquire wisdom of Torah and avodas Hashem anywhere Jews can be found.

