



**A Study Partner from the Upper World  
Parshas Ekev**

Grandfather stood humbly in the room of his Rebbe, the Chozeh (Seer) of Lublin. His son was waiting at home for salvation, for his match, so that he could get married and start a family.

Time was passing, age was becoming a factor, and there was still no wedding in sight. Grandmother sent grandfather to Lublin to beseech his Rebbe for help.

The custom was that one did not discuss worldly matters with the Chozeh, and when you gave him a *kwittel*, a note of request, it only included the name of the requester, but not the request itself. The Rebbe knew what his followers needed.

And so, grandfather wrote his name on a note and gave it to the righteous man. The Chozeh noted that our relative, Yitzchak Dovid ben Feigah, was his relative as well, through Rabbi Yitzchak the Great of Poznan, a leading scholar of his time.

After mentioning the Torah great, the Chozeh shared a story about him. When Rabbi Yitzchak was a child, his father Rabbi Avraham passed away suddenly, leaving Rabbi Yitzchak and his older brother Yosef orphans. On his deathbed, Rabbi Avraham ordered his elder son Rabbi Yosef to take over his responsibilities at the Yeshivah. He also begged him to ensure that Rabbi Yitzchak received a proper education.

Yosef followed his father's request. He raised his brother and educated him in the world of Torah. However, Rabbi Yitzchak was slow in understanding his studies. His brother, the Rosh Yeshivah, would reprimand him, but to no avail.

On the eve of Rabbi Yitzchak's Bar Mitzvah, after Maariv, he waited until the synagogue was clear. He took a candle and approached the holy ark and cried: "Father, Father!"

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In our weekly parsha we learn about the father's obligation to teach his son Torah.

"And you shall teach them to your sons to speak with them, when you sit in your house and when you walk on the way and when you lie down and when you rise."<sup>1</sup>

We learn of our Sages who went to visit the home of Rav Hemnunah, who had already passed away. They were hosted by his wife, and subsequently met his young son and inquired about him. They discovered that the boy surpassed them in knowledge and holiness. The boy sat and taught them, up to the point that Rabbi Yehuda announced: he is not a man, he is an angel from the Heavens.

Rabbi Yehuda Zerahia Segal explains that through longing one can draw inspiration from the upper world.

The Gur Rebbe, the Pnei Menachem, explains this through the story of Rabbi Meir, who once realized that his host was dishonest, and therefore hid his wallet in the cemetery, at the grave of his host's father.

At night, the father appeared in his son's dream and ordered him to steal the wallet. The Maharsha questions – how can this be? How would the Heavens help a person steal? He answers that since the son desired and coveted to steal – the Heavens enabled him to fail.

The Rebbe then points out that this is definitely the case when someone longs for holiness, that the gates of holiness and purity are opened to him.

Our Sages teach us that "a son is like his father's foot," meaning that after the father has passed away – his son continues his legacy, causing his father to further ascend in worlds.

Commenting on our parsha's verses, the Ohr Hachaim asks why the Torah emphasizes worldly gain - "And I will give grass in your field for your livestock, and you will eat and be sated?" The Torah teaches us that while the main reward is paid by G-d in the world to come, he who follows G-d's commandments is rewarded in this world as well.

And what is a father's reward in this world. If not to see his son walk down the right and proper path?!

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The boy cried bitterly for a long while and bemoaned his situation, beseeching G-d to open his heart to Torah. He fell asleep exhausted, and his father appeared to him in a dream and consoled him with uplifting words while promising – I will come every day and learn with you the day's lesson.

And so it was – every evening the son closed himself in his room and learned with his father, who appeared from the World Above, the lesson for the next day. His brother Rabbi Yosef was satisfied with his progress, but he did not share with him his secret.

Years later, after Rabbi Yosef passed way, Rabbi Yitzchak was named town rabbi in his father's stead, continuing the legacy of Torah in the town for years to come.

"We are relatives," the Chozeh of Lublin concluded, blessing Grandfather as a relative - "may we merit to rejoice together soon in the marriage of the son."

<sup>1</sup> Dvarim 11:19.