

**ONE POINT***from*

לקוטי שיחות חלק טו, שיחה ב לפרשת ויחי

**Use these words to fill in the blanks:****\* יוסף \* יעקב \* צדיק \* מרע \* סור \* טוב \* עשה \* left \* right \*****IN THE PARSHA:**

\_\_\_\_\_ brought his sons to be blessed by \_\_\_\_\_ before he passed away.

He put his older son, מנשה, to יעקב's right, and his younger son, אפרים, to יעקב's left.

Yet, יעקב put his \_\_\_\_\_ hand on אפרים's head, and his \_\_\_\_\_ hand on מנשה's head.

**QUESTION:**

Since he saw what his father did, why did יוסף still show more importance to מנשה?

**ANSWER:**

יוסף was very successful and remained a צדיק in מצרים, because

- 1) he remembered who he was, and where he came from, so he was not influenced by his surroundings – סור מרע, and
- 2) he worked to influence his surrounding where Hashem had placed him – עשה טוב

He named his 1<sup>st</sup> son מנשה, so he would remember, and not be influenced by מצרים, even though Hashem had made him so comfortable there that “נִשְׁכַּח אֶלְקִים... כָּל-בֵּית אָבִי” (= it might have caused him to **forget** where he came from).

He named his 2<sup>nd</sup> son אפרים, to appreciate his success, that not only was he not influenced by מצרים, on the contrary, he influenced them – “הַפְּרִי אֱלֹהִים, בְּאֶרֶץ עֲנִי” (= he was “fruitful” there).

This is why יוסף wanted to put מנשה first.

The עבודה that the name מנשה represents – ס \_ מ \_ – comes first, and then enables us to do the עבודה that the name אפרים represents – ט \_ ט \_ .

**Further discussion:**

- according to this explanation, why did יעקב give preference to אפרים?  
(See אותיות ד, ח-יב)