

Use these words to fill in the blanks:

*** גלות * שבועה * now * swear * swore ***

IN THE PARSHAH:

ארץ ישראל asked יוסף to swear to him that he would bury him in ארץ ישראל.

יוסף responded: אֲנֹכִי אֶעֱשֶׂה כְּדַבְּרְךָ, I will do as you say.

But יוסף insisted: הִשְׁבַּעָה לִּי, swear to me. So יוסף _____ to him.

QUESTION:

Once יוסף agreed to bury יעקב in ארץ ישראל, why was it so important to יעקב that יוסף should _____ to him that he would do so?

ANSWER:

When one makes a _____, he commits himself to do what he swears to do, *no matter what circumstances might arise*.

Now, יוסף himself would remain in מצרים until the Yidden left, many years later, because he knew that his presence would help them survive the _____.

Since יעקב understood that יוסף would see an advantage in his staying in מצרים, he demanded that יוסף *swear* to him that he would immediately take him to ארץ ישראל.

By swearing to do so, יוסף would definitely fulfill his father's request, even if he himself might see a benefit in staying in מצרים.

LIFE LESSON:

A Yid must know that גלות is temporary, and not where we belong. And just like יעקב demanded וְנִשְׂאֵתְנִי מִמִּצְרַיִם, carry me up from מצרים, we must ask Hashem to take us out of גלות, _____!

Further discussion:

*If יעקב's presence in מצרים would have helped the Yidden, why, in fact, did he insist on **not** being buried there at all? (See שיחה אות ד)*

