

Ekev- Rav Dovid Feinstein's Drasha On Tefillin
By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Devarim 11:18 as well as 6:8 and twice in Shemos Chapter 13 we are told about the mitzvah of Tefillin. In this parsha we are told, according to Rashi, that even if we may be exiled from our land, certain Mitzvos such as Tefillin will remain with us. While the primary performance of Mitzvos is in Eretz Yisroel, Hashem wants us to have signs of our mutual connection no matter where we are.

In each of the places that the Torah tells us about Tefillin, the Torah phrases the hand Tefillin as a sign on our hands and in three out of the four places the Torah refers the head Tefillin as *totafos* between the eyes. Rashi tells us that *tot* is two in one language and *fos* is two in another language making a total of four. Our mesorah is that each of the four parshiyos in the head Tefillin are written on separate parchments and placed in four separate compartments and the hand Tefillin have all four parshiyos written on one parchment and places in one compartment.

My Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Dovid Feinstein, Shlita, explains that there is great significance to the mesorah which we have about the differences between the hand and head Tefillin. The head Tefillin as stated above has each of the four parshiyos in a separate compartment. This is because each parsha gives us a different reason to do Hashem's Mitzvos in general and in particular to put on Tefillin. The first Parsha stresses that Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim. The second parsha focuses on Hashem bringing us into Eretz Yisroel. The third is about our mitzvah to love Hashem. The fourth is about reward and punishment. Each one of us has his/her own unique way of being motivated to serve Hashem. Psychologically, we are all very individual beings. This is symbolized by the four separate compartments. However, when it comes to actual performance of Mitzvos, we are all united by the same Torah. This is symbolized by the one parchment in the one compartment of the hand Tefillin. Regardless of our individual motivations in serving Hashem, we are all bound by the same Torah and Mitzvos.