

## **Mikeitz: Brought To the house of Yosef [From Noam Elimelech]**

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Bereishis 43:17 we read that when Yaakov's sons returned to Mitzrayim, they were brought to Yosef's house. This caused their greatest fear so far since they thought this was a frame-up. They thought that they were being punished as thieves of the money that was returned to their sacks. Aside from the narrative meaning, the Noam Elimelech explains these verses as an allusion to how one should conduct oneself in this world.

The Noam Elimelech starts off by stating that people who have true fear of Hashem realize that their stay in this world is temporary and is to be used to stand up to all the trials that Hashem places upon them. Ultimately, all will have to give an account and reckoning before Hakadosh Baruch Hu regarding what they did in this world. Therefore, a wise person and especially a tzaddik is constantly on guard as to how everything done in this world will be presented at the end.

The Noam Elimelech then states that the men feared refers to *anashim keshairim*, men who are proper and fear Hashem, ought to fear when they are being brought to the house of Yosef. Yosef is an allusion to the time of *neshamos*, souls being gathered to their places.

The brothers stated, 'regarding the money placed in our sacks. This refers to our physical desires and yearnings which are indicated by the word *nichsaf*, to long after. All actions, desires and thoughts will be accounted for and judged. *Lehisgollel*, to roll, is a hint that many people feel that if they are not judged so favorably, they will come back in another *gilgul*, incarnation. But who knows what the *gilgul* will be and what hardships will be encountered. The correct approach is to use all of our physical resources to serve Hashem and to pray to Hashem to help us do so. This is hinted at in the fact that the brothers spoke to the one in charge of Yosef's house. We should plead with Hashem the 'man of the house' to help us use our resources to serve him. We also see from the phrase 'the entrance of the house' that we should do all we can while we are still by the entrance and have not left the world. We all took upon ourselves the oath to serve Hashem in this world as we are told in the Gemara Niddah 30B. However, we were sidetracked along our journey. But we really want to get back to our real mission. This is what we must daven for.