

*VAYEITZEI LAVAN EXITS, SCHECHINA AND MALACHIM ENTER*

*BY RABBI ELIYAHU KIRSH*

*The Parsha of Vayetz ends with Yaakov and Lavan parting and seemingly on peaceful terms. They agree not to cross the pile of stone at Gilad for any malicious purpose. The two parties, Yaakov and his family and Lavan and his following, enjoy a farewell banquet together and everyone goes his way in peace. After Lavan has left to go back to his country Yaakov encounters the malachim, angels of Eretz Yisroel congregating to welcome him back home. At the same time the malachim for the areas outside of Eretz Yisroel are still present. Upon seeing the two camps of malachim, Yaakov calls the place Machanayim which means two camps or double camp. This is Rashi's explanation.*

*The Toras Chaim of Kossov tells us that there is a deeper message contained in this narrative of Yaakov and Lavan parting and the camps of malachim appearing. He points out that Lavan blessed his daughters and went his way. What brachos he gave his daughters we are not told in the Chumash. However, the Zohar states that when Lavan went his way Yaakov felt the Schechina again. The Zohar states that the very bracha was Lavan leaving and Yaakov going his way to meet the malachim. Once Lavan was no longer present, Yaakov could connect to Hashem without any outside influences. This too was the essence of the bracha from Esav's malach. This bracha too, was to be free of any distractions or outside influence in serving Hashem. Yaakov was now free to serve Hashem in complete holiness. Lavan going away was the best thing he could do for us since Lavan represents the Yetzer Hara as is brought down in many Sefarim. The best bracha Lavan could give any of us is his absence.*