



VAYETZE

This week, in Parshat Vayetzei, we read of the trials and tribulations of Ya'akov living with and working for his father-in-law, Lavan. Ya'akov agreed to work as a shepherd for 7 years just so he could marry Rachel, only to have Lavan switch daughters on him at the marriage ceremony.

But before Ya'akov even realizes the trick that has been played on him, the Torah mentions that the seven long years "seemed like just a few days" out of his love for Rachel. Although he had indeed worked for 7 years, the time passed quickly because of the excitement and enthusiasm that he had; he was working towards a specific goal that he truly wished to achieve.

We can gain two insights from this little story. Firstly, if a person really and truly desires something, then that person will be willing to do whatever it takes to get what is wanted. If one is not willing to put in the required effort, it shows a lack of true desire for the end result.

Secondly, if that result is truly meaningful, then the work involved to reach that point, no matter how long or how tedious, will not seem that long or difficult to the individual. It will all be considered as "part of the cause."

Happy Thanksgiving and Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Cohen