



## VAYIGASH

In this week's reading of Vayigash, we find out the conclusion of the story of Yosef and his brothers. He reveals his identity to them, and they are re-united at last, along with their father Ya'akov. In the middle of the Parsha, Pharaoh expresses joy over the fact that Yosef's brothers have come to settle in Egypt. Why? Did he really believe that ALL the brothers must have been geniuses like Yosef and that he would be able to utilize each of their powers for a better Egypt? It seems a bit unrealistic.

One of the great commentaries of the past, the Seforno, explains Pharaoh's joy in the following way. Up until now, Yosef was certainly a good ruler over Egypt. He did his job well and faithfully. Yet, he considered himself an outsider, a stranger in this land. Now that his whole family had come to settle with him, he could feel "at home," and now was truly a part of the fabric of the land. Pharaoh understood that Yosef now had an even greater reason to serve the country well, because he would be motivated to do so for the good of his own family. And so, Pharaoh rejoiced at their arrival because he knew that Yosef would now rule better than ever.

It's definitely within human nature that we do our best work to support a cause if we are somehow tangibly involved in it. A person may do wonderful volunteer work on behalf of an organization that helps sick children, for example, but his involvement will likely not be as full-hearted as that of one of the PARENTS of an ill child. Obviously, we wouldn't wish that such a thing happen to someone just so they could serve the cause in a better fashion. But when we know of a cause or an organization which needs our help and support, it would certainly be worthwhile to try and connect ourselves to the situation in some personal way, to the extent possible, so that we can then support the cause with a full heart.

Shabbat Shalom and enjoy the break (if you have one!),  
Rabbi Cohen