

"And all the pegs of the chatzer (shall be made of) copper." (27:19)

Rashi explains that these pegs were made of copper and helped secure the curtains of the *Ohel* and the hangings of the *Chatzer*. They were tied with ropes around their bottoms, so that the wind would not lift them. At first *Rashi* questions the technical application of these pegs. He discusses whether they were anchored in the ground or tied and suspended, so that their sheer weight held down the bottoms of the curtains to keep them from moving in the wind.

Horav Moshe Feinstein z.l., compares the pegs and curtains to a *ben Torah*. A *ben Torah* is apt to move and be carried away by the prevailing winds of change unless he is firmly rooted in *Torah*. The goal of each individual should be that his level of *Torah* scholarship and commitment to *mitzvah* performance serve as a "ballast" to keep him firmly planted. Thus, he will be able to resist the winds of modernity, change and assimilation.

To reach this level, however, one must rely on the assistance of outside sources. He must participate in diligent *Torah* study in a *makom Torah*, center for *Torah* learning, amidst *rebbeim* and friends deeply committed to guiding and inspiring others in the *Torah* way. After he has received this foundation, he will be prepared to withstand the external pressures which overwhelm those who do not have the ability to stand firm and resist them.