

## "And Yaakov was a simple (perfect) man dwelling in tents." (25:31)

Many definitions are applied to the word "*tam*" - simple, plain, scholarly, single-minded, etc. These attributes all apply to Yaakov's character. The phrase *dwelling in tents* seems to refer to his amazing diligence in *Torah* study. Noting the plural term "tents", the *Midrash* interprets the *Torah's* emphasis to be a message that Yaakov went from one tent of *Torah* to another seeking whatever *Torah* knowledge was available. It therefore seems peculiar that the word used for describing Yaakov's singular devotion to *Torah* study is "dwelling". Would it not have been more appropriate to state that "Yaakov studies" in the tents of *Torah*, rather than dwells in them?

We may derive from this *pasuk* that it was not only Yaakov's extraordinary diligence which distinguished him, but rather it was his entire attitude towards *Torah* study. Yaakov "dwelled" in the *Bais Hamedrash*. The relationship between Yaakov and the *Torah* was not measured by the amount of time he spent studying it, but by the manner in which he focused his entire life around *Torah*. Yaakov did not merely study *Torah* in the *Yeshiva*; his home and place of sustenance was the *Yeshiva*. Hence the term *Yeshiva* (a place for *Torah* study) is more than an educational institution for the scholarly study of *Torah*. It is a *ben Torah's* home in which his life is completely enveloped and guided by *Torah* study.