

"And there went out the son of an Israelite woman who was the son of an Egyptian... and the son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name." (24:10-11)

The *Sforno* says that the reason for mentioning this individual's paternal ancestry is to emphasize the reason for his impudence and audacity. An Israelite would never be so unrestrained as to "*curse the Name*". We may note from the *Sforno's* thesis that the character traits of parents are inherited by their offspring. It was only because of his specific non-Jewish lineage that there was ingrained in him this outrageous audacity which he displayed. It is no wonder that *Chazal* have insisted that when choosing a mate a person should be especially aware of and sensitive to his or her character traits.