

"For they are a generation of reversals, children whose upbringing is not in them." (32:20)

The *Navi Malachi* proclaims, "Behold I will send to you Eliyahu *Ha'Navi*... and he will return the heart of fathers to their children and the heart of children to their fathers." *Horav Tzvi Hirsch Ferber, z.l.*, writes that he once heard a novel interpretation of this *pasuk* in conjunction with the above *pasuk* from our *parsha*. Parents are required to teach their children *Torah*, placing emphasis upon their religious observance so that they merit *Olam Haba*. Children, on the other hand, are obliged to care for the physical well-being of their parents, concerning themselves with their parents' *Olam Hazeih*.

Regrettably, we have turned into a *dor tahapuchos*, a generation in which everything is reversed. Parents who should concern themselves with their child's spiritual dimension are placing prime focus upon their children's material needs. They make choices regarding their child's future by determining what will enhance their socio-economic status.

Consequently, children who have not been reared with the *Torah* as their all-encompassing beacon of inspiration, do not involve themselves in their parents' *Olam Hazeih*. Rather, they wake up only when their parents are in *Olam Haba*. They remember their parents when it is time to say *Kaddish* or *Yizkor*, or to visit their gravesites -- at their convenience.

The *Navi*, therefore, responds that in the future -- with the advent of Eliyahu *Ha'Navi* -- the heart of parents who had cared more about their children's *Olam Hazeih* will be redirected to pursue the correct focus on their children's spiritual development. Similarly, children will remember their parents while they are still alive, demonstrating a proper display of gratitude and providing for their physical well-being. Only a child nurtured in *Torah* understands life's priorities and addresses them accordingly.