

**"And the daughters of Tzafchad drew near... and they stood before Moshe... Our father died in the desert.. and he had no son... Give us a possession among our father's brothers."
(27:1,2,3,4,5)**

The *Midrash* comments that when Moshe learned that Tzafchad's daughters would inherit their father's property, he decided that the time had come for him to appoint an inheritor for his position. Consequently, he requested that Hashem designate his two sons to assume his position. We may question Moshe *Rabbeinu's* timing. Tzafchad's daughters were seeking material possessions, while Moshe's request was for spiritual continuity. What relationship is there between the two?

Horav Mordechai Rogov, zl, posits that Tzafchad's daughters' request was not motivated by material needs. Rather, it was spiritual in nature. One's inheritance tends to bond a child to his parents. When one assumes ownership of the "home" of his parents, the atmosphere that permeated in his parents' home dominates. His parents are alive! Even the most alienated child will not denigrate his parents' memory. What was precious and dear to them, the values and orientation to which they adhered, their faith and conviction, will continue to inspire those descendants who remain connected to the past generation. Indeed, the children will strive to demonstrate their affinity with their parents' lifestyle; as long as they are using their inheritance.

This was the women's claim. "Why should we be deprived of our family heritage? If we do not receive a portion, then the golden chain that ties us together will be severed. We might forget the beauty and sanctity that reigned in our home. We fear that if we are forced to move elsewhere, our father's memory will not be transmitted to his descendants. Moshe sensed that this claim was not mercenary. He saw that their concerns were not petty like those of so many others. Their concerns focused on the very heart of Jewish continuity and survival. Their concern for their families' future inspired Moshe to protect his own personal interests.