



# BE A MENTSCH

Rabbi Yitzchok Sanders



## *Brothers!*

### פְּרִשֶׁת וַיִּשָּׁב

Being a Mentsch means “be strong and full of courage” with quiet dignity. It is important to stand up and defend what we know to be right even though we may be outnumbered by all our friends, family or even enemies. This is also the message of הַנוֹכַח. We must have strength to perform the Mitzvos of Hashem. If we do that, then we follow in the footsteps of the הַשְּׂמוּנָאִים. The reason we must do this is because we know that we are doing something which is good and right.

We don't have to fight, scream or shout; we must do what is right with quiet dignity. In this week's parsha, we have a very similar episode. What ראובן did to save יוסף from the rest of the שְׂבָטִים is the same idea. יוסף and לוי wanted to kill יוסף. ראובן saved him by saying that we don't kill. He didn't mind if he was just one brother against all the others. He felt that it was important to save יוסף and that the other שְׂבָטִים shouldn't kill. *He insisted*; he didn't scream or shout at his brothers - and in the end they listened to him. He also taught them the importance of family in a dignified way.

This is an especially important lesson we must learn in order to prevent bullying from happening in a school. If we see somebody being hurt, we must step forward and try our best to stop it. We must insist with dignity. Hashem rewarded ראובן for his behavior by placing the first עיר מקלט in the land of ראובן. We too will be rewarded for our efforts even if it is difficult sometimes, we too must always do **what is right**. This is the Middah of גבורה – Strength; this is also the way brothers and sisters show their love for their family members

*My Brother*  
*Rabbi Dovid Orlofsky*

As a young man was enjoying the smooth ride of his new fancy car, he pulled up to the local supermarket to buy some groceries. Looking for a place to park, he caught sight of a little boy gazing at his car. The boy was wearing old, tattered clothing, clearly indicating that he came from a family that could not afford to give him much more. Rolling down his window, the young man yelled out to the boy, “Do you like the car?” “Yeah, where did you get it from?” Turning to the boy, the man said, “My brother bought it for me.”

Still entranced by the sight of the car, the boy stood there. The man in the car figured that he would respond as any other typical boy would: “Oh, I wish I had a brother like that!” But this boy was different; he had a different look on the matter. He said, “**Wow! *I wish I could be a brother like that.***”

Caught off guard by the remark of the boy, the man sat there. He then looked at the boy and said, “Do you want to go for a ride?” His face breaking out in a smile, the little boy happily hopped into the car. “Can we drive to my house?” he asked. Figuring that he wished to show off the elegant car he was sitting in to his friends, the man complied.

Finally arriving at the house, the boy turned to the man and said, “Can you wait just a second?” “Sure,” he said. Running inside, the little boy came out carrying his younger brother who could not walk. He had polio. Bringing him close to the car, he clenched his brother tight and said, “Can you see that? His brother bought him that car. One day I will buy you a car like that so it will be easier for you to get around. Right now it is hard for you to do so, but that will one day all change.”

*We would be wise to listen to the beautiful message of this little boy: “Everybody wishes they had a brother like that; but how many people wish they could be a brother like that”? We would live as much happier, thoughtful and selfless people if we would only adopt such an attitude.*

Have a Great Shabbos!