

בעז"ה

An excerpt from



Based on the teachings of  
The Lubavitcher Rebbe

*By Rabbi Yekusiel Goldstein*

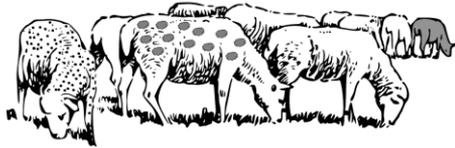
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*We Have Power!*

**Y**aakov  
worked  
as



Lavan's shepherd

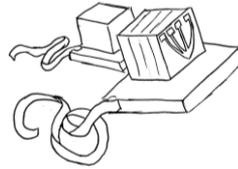
for twenty years. Lavan made an agreement with Yaakov, that all the newborn sheep that will have spots on their skin, would go to Yaakov as his payment. So, Yaakov took branches and peeled some of the bark off, forming spots and stripes on them. Yaakov then placed these branches in front of the sheep while they grazed. This caused the newborn sheep to have those same patterns on their skin.

The *zohar* says, that by peeling the sticks Yaakov performed the *mitzva* of *tefillin*. Before *matan Torah* the main element of performing a *mitzva* was the *kavana* and thought of the person. The physical object with which the *mitzva* was performed, was not so important. Yaakov was therefore able to perform the *mitzva* of *tefillin* by peeling sticks.

Interestingly enough, our *Chachomim* tell us that when Yaakov was done using the sticks, he threw them out.

**Question** - How was Yaakov able to throw out something that was used as *tefillin*? Wasn't it *heilik*?

**Answer** – By *matan Torah* Hashem gave us a special power, that when we take something physical and use it for a *mitzva*, it becomes *heilik*. For example, when we write words of *Chumash* on a paper, or use wool strings to make *tzitzis*, the paper and wool become *heilik*!



The *Avos* who lived before *matan Torah* didn't have this special power, and the physical world was not transformed.

Thus, after Yaakov used the sticks for *tefillin*, they remained regular sticks. They didn't become *heilik* and he was able to throw them out.

**Lesson** - Let us use this special power that we have, and use whatever we can for a *mitzva*. We can take oil and use it to light a *menora*, or take wine and use it for *kiddush*. By doing so, we will elevate the entire world, making it ready for the coming of *Moshiach*!

*(Based on Likutei Sichos vol. 3 p. 887)*

שבת ויום טוב  
צבר' תורה

## Let's Review...

Question #1 – How did Yaakov perform the *Mitzva* of *tefillin*?

Question #2 – What special power do our *Mitzvos* have after *Matan Torah*?



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Gut Shabbos!