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*Unsettled  
settlement*

*Rabbi Alon Meltzer*

*A New Page of Talmud*

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*Vayeishev 5782*

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Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan - **Bereshit 37:1**<sup>1</sup> "Jacob settled in the land his fathers had sojourned in." The entire line was written in order to show that G-d had kept his promise to both Abraham and Isaac, and that one of their descendants had already not only sojourned in this land but had settled in it, and had acquired land in it through purchase. (33,19) In fact the expression of being settled did appear in connection with both Abraham and Isaac.

**Chizkuni on Bereshit 37:1**<sup>2</sup> Remove from me all the pressures which I am under, pressures which prevent man from giving his attention to matters which should receive his attention, i.e. to God and what He expects from man. What troubled Jacob was what our sages in Eruvin 41 described as the three problems which are liable to unbalance someone's mind as well as his relationship to his Creator. They are: gentiles, being involved personally in natural disasters, and excessive poverty. **Sforno on Bereshit 28:20**<sup>3</sup> "And Jacob dwelt in the land in which his father sojourned, in the land of Canaan" (Bereshit 37:1). Rabbi Chiya opened the discussion with the verse, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and Hashem delivers him out of them all" (Tehilim 34:20). Come and behold, how many enemies a man must face from the day that the Holy One, blessed be He, gives him a soul in this world. As soon as man comes into the world, the Evil Inclination is immediately ready to join him, as it is written, "sin crouches at the door" (Bereshit 4:7), because that is when the Evil Inclination

Now Jacob was settled in the land....

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**Bereshit 37:1**

associates with him. – **Zohar, 1:179**<sup>4</sup> Jacob wished to dwell in tranquillity. G-d reacted to this wish by saying: "Are the righteous not satisfied with their portion in the Hereafter that they also demand tranquillity in this world?" If this is the way G-d reacted when a man of Jacob's calibre wished for tranquillity, what can an ordinary mortal whose life is full of transgressions look forward to? **Shnei Luchot haBrit**<sup>5</sup> This is the explanation of "Yaakov settled in the area of his father's meguray (dwelling)" (Genesis 37:1). The Midrash states: "his father's meGuRaY"—he made converts, as his fathers had (Bereishit Rabbah 84:4) ; as if it were written "miGiyuRaY (of the converts) of his father." –

**Lekutei Moharan 228:8**<sup>6</sup> And Jacob dwelt in peace in the land of the sojourning of his fathers, in the land of Canaan – **Targum Yonatan on Bereshit 37:1**<sup>7</sup> Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. – **Unknown**<sup>8</sup>

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