

# Parsha Story

Stories and Parables from  
the famed Maggid of Dubno  
by Rabbi Chanan Morrison

## "Cursed Be Their Rage"

"Cursed be their rage, for it is fierce;  
and their anger, for it is cruel"  
(B'reishit 49:7).

Yaakov's blessing to Shimon and Levi  
sounds more like a curse than a  
blessing. Still, the Sages noted that  
Yaakov was careful not to curse his  
sons, but only their anger.

What does it mean to "curse anger"?

### Two Types of Angry Individuals

When a wealthy and powerful person  
is quick to anger, this is a dangerous  
combination. Such a person feels free  
to express his wrath. He is constantly  
yelling and screaming at others,  
allowing his rage get out of control.

A poor person, on the other hand,  
even if he has a temper, will work  
hard to hold his anger in check. He  
relies upon the favors of others, and  
can ill afford to vent his displeasure  
on anyone he wants. We may refer to  
this type of curbed anger as an  
"anger that is cursed".

### Shimon and Levi's Blessing

Yaakov did not curse Shimon and  
Levi, but their rage. He saw that by

nature they were quick to anger, and  
they needed to learn to control this  
trait.

Therefore Yaakov told them, "I will  
disperse them in Yaakov, scatter  
them in Yisrael." As the Midrash  
explains, they will need to wander  
around, seeking work as tutors and  
melamdim. As poor and itinerant  
teachers, dependent upon the largess  
of others, they will need to learn to  
keep their anger in check.

*Adapted from Mishlei Yaakov, pp. 105-106*