The Daily Portion - Sivan Rahav Meir

Living by Our Values

Translation by Yehoshua Siskin

For our forefather Yaakov, God was not only present in the synagogue, and not standing over him only when he dreamed of angels on a ladder, but within his home, in everyday life.

Yaakov conducted himself in accordance with divine values in every detail of his daily routine.

In establishing his family, in his devoted and faithful work as a shepherd, and in conducting himself with integrity even in his dealings with Lavan the deceiver, Yaakov was with God, side by side.

Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch expresses this beautifully in his commentary on Yaakov's home and on our homes as well:

"There are those who say: Let us visit God in His home, but let Him not visit us in ours!

That was not the case in the first Jewish home; Yaakov brought God inside to be a constant presence in the life of his family.

Each of our homes can become a House of God, a place where the Divine Presence dwells at all times and serves as a gateway to Heaven."

May we merit to have such homes.

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