

Last week we told the story of Yaakov, who after years of separation from his father was finally reuniting with him.  
We continue where we left off...

*As he exited the baggage pickup area, he spotted his uncle standing right next to an older man, who he realized must be his father. As soon as their eyes met, his father ran over to him with tears streaming down his cheeks. Hugging him close, he showered him with kisses saying, “Yankahleh! Yankahleh! My dear little Yankahleh! You’re alive! I can’t believe it, you’re really alive! Oh, how I waited decades for this day. Not an hour has gone by in the past twenty years without yearning for this day! Only my hope for it has allowed me to continue living despite all I lost in the war!” Despite Yaakov’s joy and emotion at finally seeing his father, being that he had separated from him when he was so small, he had no recollections of the man whose tears were now wetting his cheeks as he hugged him close, and didn’t feel emotionally as moved as he knew he should. This bothered him greatly. However, he immediately decided to focus on what his father was feeling. He imagined how he would feel had his own precious child, who he loved more than life itself, been lost for twenty years and now finally found. Thinking of this, he was immediately overcome with emotion as he grasped the feeling of what was happening. His tears began to mingle with his father’s as they both cried together, holding on to each other as if they would never let go!*

Sometimes, as we begin the *Shemone Esrei*, despite our knowing intellectually what is really going on, we don’t feel emotionally the specialness of the moment. Just as Yaakov, we simply have never seen our Father with our physical eyes or felt His touch caressing our cheek. At such times let us do what Yaakov did, let us focus on the other side of the coin. What is our Father feeling, so to speak, at this very moment? Imagine, we were reuniting with our own dear children after searching for them for decades. How would we feel as we finally reunite with them and hug them close? Then realize that at this very moment as we begin *Shemone Esrei*, irrespective of our ability to feel it ourselves, at this very moment Someone is feeling this way. Our Father does remember His child, He constantly yearns for him to return to His arms and delight in His closeness, which is the very purpose of Creation. As we say, “Hashem open my lips,” let us feel His tears wetting our cheeks, and as we say, “and my mouth will tell Your praises,” may we merit having our tears mingle with His.

*Established By:*