

# Zera Shimshon

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## Chapter X: Mikeitz (Gen. 41:1–44:17)

### Essay 12. The secret return of the brothers' funds

**פסוק** "וַיֵּצֵאוּ יוֹסֵף וַיְמַלְאוּ אֶת־כְּלֵיהֶם בָּר וּלְהָשִׁיב כֶּסֶפֵיהֶם אִישׁ אֶל־שָׁקוֹ" וכו' "וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם כֵּן."

There is a verse, “Then Joseph commanded that they would fill their sacks with grain, and [commanded them] to return each one’s money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey; and he did this for them” (Gen. 42:25). It is curious that the verse uses the infinitive form “to return” and “to give,” but uses the plural third person “they would fill” and the singular third person “he did.”

הטעם שלא אמר הכתוב וַיֵּצֵאוּ יוֹסֵף לְמַלְאוֹת אֶת־כְּלֵיהֶם בָּר וּלְהָשִׁיב וכו' בְּלִשׁוֹן מְקוֹר, יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר שִׂיּוֹסֵף הֵיךְ רוֹצֵה שֶׁתִּשְׁבֹּת הַכֶּסֶף בְּשָׂקֵיהֶם יִהְיֶה בְּתוֹרַת סוּד, אֲבָל לְמַלְאוֹת שְׂקֵיהֶם הוּא דְבַר הַמְּסוֹר לְכָל הַפְּקוּדִים עַל מְכִירַת הַבָּר. וְלָכֵן אָמַר, "וַיֵּצֵאוּ יוֹסֵף, " שְׂאוֹתֶם הַמְּמוֹנִים עַל כֹּה יְמַלְאוּ כְּלֵיהֶם בָּר, אֲבָל "לְהָשִׁיב כֶּסֶפֵיהֶם אִישׁ אֶל־שָׁקוֹ" לֹא צִוָּה אֲלָא לְאַחַר בְּתוֹרַת סוּד, וְנִהוּ שְׂסִיִּים הַכְּתוּב, "וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם כֵּן" לִשׁוֹן יְחִיד.

As for the reason that Scripture did not say, “then Joseph gave orders to fill their sacks with grain, and to return . . . and to give” etc. in the original language, it can be said that Joseph had wanted the return of the money to their sacks to be done in secret, so as not to have to explain to the brothers why they weren’t being charged for the grain. In contrast, to fill their sacks with grain was a matter of public record upon the sale of the grain. Therefore, [Scripture] said: “Then Joseph commanded that they would fill,” so that those in charge would publicly fill [the brothers’] vessels with grain. But “to return each one’s money to his sack,” [Joseph] only commanded afterward in a secret manner to one person, and that is why Scripture concludes, “and he did this for them,” in singular form. Thus, “they would fill” and “he did” are given in third person form, as opposed to the infinitive form, to stress that something different was happening. The specific verb forms, plural for “they would fill” and singular for “he did” clarify that the order to fill their sacks with grain was to be done in public, and the order to return the money was to be done secretly.

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