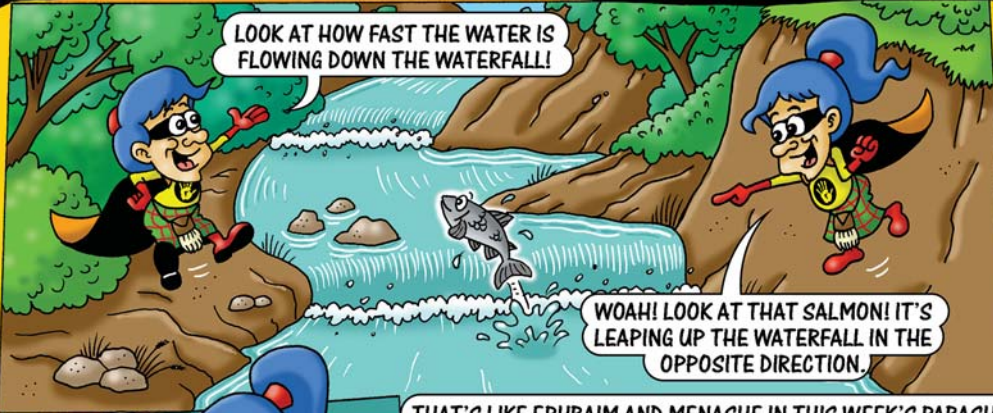




# THE TRIBE SCRIBE

VAYECHI: LONG WAY HOME!



LOOK AT HOW FAST THE WATER IS FLOWING DOWN THE WATERFALL!

WOAH! LOOK AT THAT SALMON! IT'S LEAPING UP THE WATERFALL IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

YES, I REMEMBER LEARNING ABOUT THAT IN SCHOOL. SALMON SWIM UPSTREAM, AGAINST THE CURRENT, FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES TO REACH HOME AND LAY THEIR EGGS. THEY DON'T FOLLOW THE CROWD; THEY JUST DO WHAT THEY KNOW THEY'RE MEANT TO DO.

THAT'S LIKE EPHRAIM AND MENASHE IN THIS WEEK'S PARASHA. THEY GREW UP IN PHARAOH'S PALACE, IN THE VERY SECULAR SOCIETY OF EGYPT, AWAY FROM THE OTHER JEWISH PEOPLE. DESPITE THAT, THEY REMAINED TRUE TO THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY AND KEPT THE MITZVOT. YA'AKOV COULD SEE THAT AND HE GAVE THEM A SPECIAL BLESSING.



YES! AND THAT IS THE BLESSING THAT JEWISH PARENTS ACROSS THE WORLD USE TO BLESS THEIR CHILDREN EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT. THEY BLESS THEM TO BE LIKE EPHRAIM AND MENASHE, WHO WERE ABLE TO HOLD ON TO THEIR JUDAISM IN A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT AND WERE NOT JEALOUS OF EACH OTHER. WE HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO THAT TOO!



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Tribes is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.