

# The Rashi Database Project

## NEW AND IMPROVED

GOALS: \* Show that all Rashid comments are spontaneous, instant, effortless reactions of a native speaker to the biblical text.

\*This is accomplished by skillful English translations instantly suggesting the Rashid comment to the reader

\* Additionally, each Rashid comment is examined using the 10 organs of the Rashid anatomy.

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MG=Modern Grammar with Applications to Rashid ([www.Rashiyom.com/Rashibook2.htm](http://www.Rashiyom.com/Rashibook2.htm) ))

OTHER COMMENTATORS (ABBREVIATIONS): R=Ramban, T=Baal Turim, K=Kli Yakar, I=Ibn Ezra, H=Hendel

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**Gn37-02e, Gn37-02f**

### **PESHAT, SPONTANEOUS, REACTION TO SKILLFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

**WHAT IS NEW:** *In this week's digest we show how the Torah and the Rashi commentary continually used the text and commentary to teach basic psychology. Today we study the psychology of the immature teenager. The material was partially inspired by a psychologist, a modern orthodox Rabbi's book on teenagers.*

## TODAYS CHALLENGING RASHIS

**VERSE:** Gn37-02b

**TRANSLATION:** *These are the descendants of Jacob: Joseph, 17 year olds, used to sheppard with his brothers and he behaved immaturity [lit. behaved like a child] with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; Joseph brought all evil chatter with them to his father*

**METHOD:** Idioms Synecdoche

**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** The Hebrew word NaAR, Nun-Ayin-Resh, literally means lad. The verb form, he lad-ded, meaning he behaved like a lad, corresponds to the English idiom behaving like a child. Here we use the literary figure of speech, synecdoche, which names something by a good example: Thus you can refer to something sweet as honey and you can refer to general immaturity as lad-ding.

Immature teenagers have a certain psychological profile. They typically have no self-esteem, no sense of self worth and hang out with lower elements of society reflecting their lack of self esteem; here the verse explains that Joseph hung out with the children of the maids This is a reading literacy technique in which the theme of the paragraph (Joseph's immaturity) is developed by examples of immaturity in the paragraph

The Hebrew word DiBBaH, Daleth-Beth-Hey, corresponds to the English word chatter. Chatter is non serious talk. It very often consists of griping and bad perceptions; but the word chatter itself simply refers to off-the-cuff (not seriously thought out) conversations. This too is a typical trait of immaturity, part of their profile. In

describing the immaturity of teenagers I was assisted by a modern Rabbi-Psychologist's views on the Joseph episode brought down in his book, YYYYYY. This Rabbi, Dr. XXXXXX , specializes in teenage problems and currently conducts outreach weekly on various media in Israel.

## DATABASE ENTRIES

*The Free Downloadable Excel based database is found at*  
[http://www.Rashiyomi.com/The\\_Rashi\\_Database\\_Project.xls](http://www.Rashiyomi.com/The_Rashi_Database_Project.xls)

**VERSE:** Gn37-01a  
**TRANSLATION:** *Jacob dwelt in the land his father stayed in, Canaan*  
**METHOD:** Paragraph style  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** A paragraph style refers to certain markers, if you like key words, by which authors indicate the type of paragraph they are entering. Rashi lays down the style rule that genealogy (or descendant) paragraphs typically have the following form: (a) Several instances of people and the names of their descendants are listed, (b) Then when an important person is named (a person contributing to the main bible story) a more elaborate paragraph is given, presenting both descendants and important stories happening. Ibn Ezra beautifully supports the type (b) paragraph by citing Pr27-01, the happenings [lit. descendants] of the day. Ramban correctly points out that many genealogies are of type (a); he misses Rashi's point that both style (a) and (b) are used. The examples Rashi gives are 1) 10 generations culminating with Noah, 2) 10 generations culminating with Abraham, 3) Esau's descendants and now Jacob's descendants [See Gn37-02a]

**VERSE:** Gn37-02a  
**TRANSLATION:** *These are the descendants of Jacob: Joseph, 17 year olds, used to sheppard with his brothers and he behaved immaturely [lit. behaved like a child] with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; Joseph told all evil chatter he had with them to his father*  
**METHOD:** Paragraph style  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** [See Gn37-01.] We explained there are two types of genealogy paragraphs. Type (b) emphasizes both descendants and critical stories that affected Jewish history. This explains why this paragraph now tells the story of Joseph besides enumerating descendants.

**VERSE:** Gn37-02b

**TRANSLATION:** *These are the descendants of Jacob: Joseph, 17 year olds, used to sheppard with his brothers and he behaved immaturely [lit. behaved like a child] with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; Joseph brought all evil chatter with them to his father*

**METHOD:** Idioms Synecdoche

**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** The Hebrew word NaAR, Nun-Ayin-Resh, literally means lad. The verb form, he lad-ded, meaning he behaved like a lad, corresponds to the English idiom behaving like a child. Here we use the literary figure of speech, synecdoche, which names something by a good example: Thus you can refer to something sweet as honey and you can refer to general immaturity as lad-ding.[Continued in Gn37-02c]

**VERSE:** Gn37-02c

**TRANSLATION:** *These are the descendants of Jacob: Joseph, 17 year olds, used to sheppard with his brothers and he behaved immaturely [lit. behaved like a child] with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; Joseph brought all evil chatter with them to his father*

**METHOD:** Reading Literacy Context

**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** [Continued from Gn37-02b] Immature teenagers have a certain psychological profile. They typically have no self-esteem, no sense of self worth and hang out with lower elements of society reflecting their lack of self esteem; here the verse explains that Joseph hung out with the children of the maids This is a reading literacy technique in which the theme of the paragraph (Joseph's immaturity) is developed by examples of immaturity in the paragraph [Continued in Gn37-02d]

**VERSE:** Gn37-02d

**TRANSLATION:** *These are the descendants of Jacob: Joseph, 17 year olds, used to Sheppard with his brothers and he behaved immaturely [lit. behaved like a child] with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; Joseph brought all evil chatter with them to his father*

**METHOD:** Synonym nuances

**BRIEF  
EXPLANATION:**

[Continued from Gn37-02c] The Hebrew word *DiBBaH*, Daleth-Beth-Hey, corresponds to the English word *chatter*. Chatter is non serious talk. It very often consists of griping and bad perceptions; but the word *chatter* itself simply refers to off-the-cuff (not seriously thought out) conversations. This too is a typical trait of immaturity, part of their profile. In describing the immaturity of teenagers I was assisted by a modern Rabbi-Psychologist's views on the Joseph episode brought down in his book. This Rabbi, Dr. Avidan Milevsky, specializes in teenage problems and currently conducts outreach weekly on various media in Israel.

**VERSE:** Gn37-02e  
**TRANSLATION:** *See Gn37-02d*  
**METHOD:** Synonym nuances  
**BRIEF  
EXPLANATION:** *See Gn37-02d*

**VERSE:** Gn37-02f  
**TRANSLATION:** *See Gn37-02d*  
**METHOD:** Synonym nuances  
**BRIEF  
EXPLANATION:** *See Gn37-02d*