

**Mishlei 15-06****Contamination****Key Concepts**

A righteous person's home is like a warehouse filled with all the spiritual treasure that he has amassed over the years. It includes the wisdom he has acquired and the *mitzvos* he has performed. It includes all the devotion, love, and goodwill earned by himself and the members of his family. Furthermore, if he has managed to accumulate physical wealth through hard work, it becomes part of his legacy, which he passes on to future generations.

Anyone who owns a warehouse makes sure to have it protected against fire and theft. If he uses its facilities to store grain or other perishable goods, he must guard them against contamination. He knows that if he does not take the needed precautions, he can lose everything.

The treasure that a *tzadik* has accumulated over a lifetime is also subject to loss. If he permits evil in whatever form to enter his home that source of contamination can ultimately destroy everything.

Therefore, the *tzadik* needs to be constantly on guard and take active steps to protect his investment from the subtle and insidious forces that can appear when he least expects them. Those forces can come from the outside world, but tragically they can also come from within him in the form of moral weakness, selfishness, and pride.

**Exploring Mishlei**

(ו) בֵּית צַדִּיק חֶסֶן רָב וּבֵת בּוֹאֵת רָשָׁע נִעְכָּרֶת:

**(6) *The house of the tzadik is a great stronghold,  
but it can be contaminated with the grain of the rasha.***

This proverb alludes to the spiritual and physical treasure that a person accumulates over his lifetime. It warns him not to take it for granted that he will always have it. Like grain in a warehouse, it can easily become contaminated by evil forces unless he acts to protect it.

## Learning Mishlei

(6) The house of the *tzadik* — **בֵּית צַדִּיק**  
is a great stronghold — **חֹסֶן רָב**  
filled with treasure  
but with the grain of the *rasha* — **וּבִתְבוֹאֵת רָשָׁע**  
it can be contaminated — **נִעְכָּרֶת**.

## Additional Insights

- (1) A person who brings corruption into his home through dishonest dealings or immoral behavior will contaminate everything he owns, and his entire treasure is subject to loss. (מלבניים)
- (2) The Bais Hamikdash that David Hamelech founded was a tower of strength for Klal Yisrael. However, his descendant Menashe brought about its destruction by bringing idols into the holy precincts. (רשיי)
- (3) A person's soul is like a warehouse which he builds over the years, filling it with wisdom and *mitzvos*. He can ruin this beautiful edifice by contaminating it with bad *middos*. (מלבניים)
- (4) The stability and endurance of a home may be understood as the direct result of a person's own efforts, or the effect of Hashgachah that becomes attached to him. (רלביג)