



PARASHAT TOLDOT

נח הסביבה

כתוב בפסוק (כה:כב) "ויתרצו הבנים בקרבה". רש"י מפרש שכשהיתה עוברת אצל בית מדרש, יעקב השתדל לצאת, וכשהיתה עוברת אצל בית עבודה זרה, עשו השתדל לצאת. השאלה היא למה רצה יעקב לצאת כשעברה אצל בית מדרש, הלא ילד במעי אמו מלמדין אותו על ידי מלאך את כל התורה כולה? הרב בונים מפשיסחא מפרש את דברי רש"י שאפילו אם הוא היה לומד עם מלאך מכל מקום קשה ללמוד תורה בסביבה של עשו שהיה רשע.

Cultivating a Relationship with Hashem

This week's Parashah highlights the life of Yitzchok, and the new home he builds together with Rivkah. We soon discover that just as Avraham and Sarah could not conceive a child for many years before Hashem blessed them with Yitzchok, so too Yitzchok and Rivkah struggle to have children. While this may appear coincidental, we need look no further than the next generation's pairing of Yaakov and Rachel to find another couple who struggled to conceive a child. Why did Hashem deny our Avot and Imahot the cherished opportunity to have children for so many years? The Talmud explains: "G-d desires the prayer of righteous individuals." By withholding children from them, Hashem ensured that our forefathers would turn to Him in prayer. In fact, from the very beginning of time, Hashem sought a relationship with mankind. Even though Hashem created grass, flowers, trees and all forms of plant-life on the third day of creation, our sages teach us He only allowed them to sprout and grow after Adam, who was created on the 6th day, Prayed for Hashem to provide rain. During the course of our lives we all experience times of difficulty and crises. While we can never understand why Hashem presents us with these challenges and hardships, we should always remember Hashem wants to hear our Prayers. If we live in an imperfect world, it is only so we remember to return to Hashem and cultivate a more perfect relationship with Him. Our Avot and Imahot understood this and we should understand this as well.

A Lesson In Raising Children

"And Yitzchok called Yaakov and blessed him, and commanded him and said to him: "do not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan". The Chafetz Chaim explains that with this Pasuk, the Torah teaches us a lesson in raising children. The way to guide a child in the desired direction is not by intimidation, threats and displays of anger. The proper approach is by emulating Yitzchok's method, as it manifests itself in the above Pasuk. Initially, he "blessed him", that is to say, he spoke gently to him, thereby creating a cordial atmosphere. Only after the blessing did he ask him not to "take a wife from the daughters of Canaan".