

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Toldos

For the week ending 29 Cheshvan 5758  
28 & 29 November 1997

### Parsha Questions

1. Why was it important that Yitzchak look like Avraham?
2. Why does the Torah stress that Rivka was the daughter of Besuel and the sister of Lavan?
3. What are the two differences between Tamar's pregnancy and Rivka's pregnancy?
4. Yaakov was born grasping Esav's heel. What does this symbolize?
5. Who gave Yaakov his name?
6. How did Esav deceive his father?
7. Why did Hashem cause Avraham to die prematurely?
8. Why are lentils a food for mourners?
9. What was the birth right that Yaakov bought from Esav?
10. Why was Yitzchak not permitted to go to Egypt to escape the famine?
11. Why did the Philistines plug up the wells?
12. To which animal is Esav compared?
13. What caused Yitzchak to lose his sight?
14. Why did Esav leave his special garments with Rivka rather than keep them at home?
15. What made Yitzchak suspect that it wasn't Esav bringing him food?
16. What fragrance did Yitzchak detect on the garments of Yaakov?
17. What was the "fat of the land" promised to Esav?
18. When will Esav be released from his subjugation to Yaakov?
19. What inspired Esav to marry the daughter of Yishmael?
20. How long did Yaakov study in the Yeshiva of Ever before going to Lavan's house?



"Esav said, 'Give me some of this red red, because I'm exhausted.' Therefore, they called him 'Red.'"

Esav was born red, but they didn't call him "Red" until this incident. Why not?

### I Did Not Know That!

**"And Esav was a man who knew how to trap, a man of the field..."**

There exists a dangerous beast called the "man of the field" — a creature connected to the ground by the navel (see *Mishna Kilaim* 8). The only way to hunt it is to shoot arrows at its connection to the ground until it is severed, and then the beast dies. Esav, on the other hand, knew how to capture it alive. Therefore the verse reads, "Esav was a man who knew how to trap a 'man of the field.'" (Kehilas Yitzchak in the name of the Vilna Gaon, courtesy of Rabbi Sholem Fishbane)

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Parshas Toldos — 29 Cheshvan 5758, 28 & 29 November 1997

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## Recommended Reading List

### Ramban

25:23	Two Nations
26:1	Yitzchak in Exile
26:5	The Avos and Mitzvah Observance
26:20	The Wells and the Future
27:4	Rivka's Secret
27:33	Why Yitzchak Trembled

### Sforno

25:24	Esav's Name
25:26	Yaakov's Name
27:1	Yitzchak's Blindness
27:29	Yaakov's Portion

## Answers to this Week's Questions

**All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 25:19 - So that everyone would agree that Avraham was indeed his father.</li> <li>2. 25:20 - To proclaim her praise, that even though her family was evil she was righteous.</li> <li>3. 25:24 - Rivka gave birth at full term to two children, one righteous and one wicked. Tamar gave birth after seven months to two righteous children.</li> <li>4. 25:26 - That Yaakov would eventually rise to rule over Esav.</li> <li>5. 25:26 - Hashem.</li> <li>6. 25:27 - Esav deceived Yitzchak by asking questions that suggested that he was very strict in <i>mitzvah</i> observance.</li> <li>7. 25:30 - Avraham died five years prematurely, at 175, so that he should not see his grandson become wicked.</li> <li>8. 25:30 - They are round like a wheel and mourning is like a revolving wheel that eventually touches everyone.</li> <li>9. 25:31 - The right to bring <i>korbanos</i> (sacrifices).</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. 26:2 - Through the <i>akeida</i> he had attained the status of a <i>korban</i> and was forbidden to leave <i>Eretz Canaan</i>.</li> <li>11. 26:15 - They felt that either marauders would attack to capture the wells, or if attacking for other reasons, they would use the wells as a water supply.</li> <li>12. 26:34 - The pig. Just as the pig appears to be kosher but lacks the internal sign, so too Esav appeared righteous but internally was evil.</li> <li>13. 27:1 - The smoke from the incense offered by Esav's wives to their idols.</li> <li>14. 27:15 - He suspected that his wives might steal them.</li> <li>15. 27:21 - Yaakov mentioned the name of Hashem too readily.</li> <li>16. 27:27 - The scent of <i>Gan Eden</i>.</li> <li>17. 27:36 - Italy.</li> <li>18. 27:40 - When the Jewish People transgress the Torah.</li> <li>19. 28:7 - When he saw that his father despised his current wives, he resolved to take a wife from his father's family.</li> <li>20. 28:9 - Fourteen years.</li> </ol> |
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<b>Bonus</b>	<b>A:</b>	<p>There was nothing so unusual about Esav being born with a red complexion; many people are born with a red complexion. People only began calling him "Red" in order to deride him for selling his birthright for some red food.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ramban and Kli Yakar</i></p>
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