

MARRIAGE PART II

Background

The Medrash tells us that the human being who reached the greatest heights in *kibud av* was Aysav. He is used as the prime example of respecting one's parents. Rabban Shimon Ben Gamliel, who prided himself on the honor with which he treated his parents, said, "I don't treat my parents with a fraction of the respect with which Aysav treated his father and mother."

ספר בראשית פרק כז

כב) וַיִּגֶשׁ יַעֲקֹב אֶל יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַיִּמְשְׁהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַקֵּל קוֹל יַעֲקֹב וְהִידִים יְדֵי עֵשָׂו

And Yaakov approached Yitzchak his father, and Yitzchak felt him and said, "The voice is the voice of Yaakov, and the hands are the hand of Aysav."

רש"י על בראשית פרק כז פסוק כב

כב) קול יעקב - שמדבר בלשון תחנונים קום נא אבל עשו בלשון קנטוריא דבר יקום אבי

Voice of Yaakov – who spoke in a gentle, polite manner, as in, "Please get up, my father." However, Aysav spoke in a gruff way, as in, "Get up, father."

Questions

If Aysav had such respect for his parents, how is possible that he spoke to them in a manner that was rude? Aren't politeness and courtesy basic manifestations of love and reverence? If Aysav actually respected his parents, how could he act in a manner of such disrespect?