

## DAVENING: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH OUR CREATOR

### Questions

**T**his Gemara is telling us that all of the Avos and Imahos were born without the capacity to have children because HASHEM desires their prayers. This concept seems difficult to understand:

First off, even if they had children immediately, can we assume that they wouldn't have prayed from that point onward? We are dealing with people whose entire existence was to serve HASHEM. How is it possible that they would have stopped *davening* just because they had children?

But even more to the point, it just doesn't seem nice to create them barren and allow them to suffer for years just so that HASHEM could hear their prayers. (If it could be) it would almost sound selfish on HASHEM's part, as if to say that because HASHEM wants to hear their prayers, they have to suffer. How could it be that HASHEM would torture innocent, holy people just so to hear their prayers?

### תלמוד בבלי מסכת יבמות דף סד/א

ויהי יצחק בן ארבעים שנה בקחתו את רבקה וגו' וכתוב ויצחק בן ששים שנה בלדת אותם אמר ליה יצחק עקור היה א"ה אברהם נמי עקור היה

א"ר יצחק מפני מה היו אבותינו עקורים מפני שהקדוש ברוך הוא מתארה לתפלתן של צדיקים

*Yitzchak was forty years old when he married Rivka, and the posuk tells us that he was sixty years old when Rivka first gave birth. That was because he was physically incapable of having children. We see the same thing by Avrohom; he was physically incapable of having children.*

*Rebbe Yitzchak says: Why is it that the Avos (and Imahos) were barren? Because HASHEM desires the prayers of the tzaddikim.*