Parsha Q.A



Parshas Vayeitzei

For the week ending 7 Kislev 5758 5 & 6 December 1997

Parsha Questions

- 1. When Yaakov traveled to Charan, the Torah stresses that he departed from Be'er Sheva. Why?
- 2. On the night of his dream, Yaakov did something he hadn't done in 14 years. What?
- 3. In his dream, Yaakov saw angels going up and down. What were the missions of these angels?
- 4. Hashem compressed the entire land of Israel underneath the sleeping Yaakov. What did this symbolize?
- 5. Why did Yaakov rebuke the shepherds?
- 6. Why was Rachel tending her father's sheep; that is, why didn't her brothers tend the sheep as was customary in those days?
- 7. Why did Yaakov cry when he met Rachel?
- 8. Who was Elifaz, and why didn't he kill Yaakov when he had the chance?

- 9. Why did Lavan run to greet Yaakov?
- 10. Why were Leah's eyes tender?
- 11. How old was Yaakov when he married Leah and Rachel?
- 12. Why did Rachel envy Leah?
- 13. Who was Yaakov's fifth son?
- 14. How do you say "dudaim" in Arabic?
- 15. "Hashem remembered Rachel" (30:22). What did He remember?
- 16. What does "Yosef" mean? Why was he named that?
- 17. How many times did Lavan change Yaakov's wages?
- 18. Where are there two Aramaic words in this week's Parsha?
- 19. Who was Bilhah's father? Who was Zilpah's father?
- 20. Who escorted Yaakov into Eretz Yisrael?



"And he removed the stone from the mouth of the well..." (29:10)

Yaakov single-handedly plucked a giant boulder from the mouth of the well, a stone which normally took many men just to roll. Why was it necessary for Yaakov to display his superhuman strength at this particular stage in his career?

I Did Not Know That!

"It was the next morning and — Behold! — she was Leah!" (29:25).

Yaakov said to Leah, "You swindler, daughter of a swindler! Last night I called 'Rachel' and you responded!"

"I learned that from you," said Leah. "Your father (Yitzchak) called 'Esav' and you responded (in order to steal Esav's blessing)!"

Daas Zekenim Mibaalei Tosafos

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Recommended Reading List

Ramban Sforno

28:12	Yaakov's Dream	28:12-13	Yaakov's Dream
29:2	Three Flocks	29:6	A Proper Guest
30:2	Yaakov's Anger	29:11	Why Yaakov Cried
31:19	The <i>Terafim</i>	31:32	Yaakov's Curse
		32:1	A Father's Blessing

Answers to this Week's Questions

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

- 1. 28:10 The departure of a righteous person leaves a noticeable void in that place.
- 2. 28:11 Sleep at night lying down.
- 3. 28:12 The ascending angels accompanied Yaakov in *Eretz Canaan*. The descending angels accompanied Yaakov outside of the Land.
- 4. 28:13 That the Land would be easy for his descendants to conquer.
- 5. 29:7 He thought they were loafing, stopping work early in the day.
- 6. 30:27 Her brothers weren't born yet.
- 7. 29:11 He saw prophetically that they would not be buried together; or because he was penniless.
- 8. 29:11 Elifaz was Esav's son who chased Yaakov in order to kill him. But because Elifaz had grown up under the tutelage of Yitzchak, he relented.
- 9. 29:13 He thought Yaakov was carrying money.

- 10. 29:17 She cried continually because she thought she was destined to marry Esav.
- 11. 29:21 Eighty-four.
- 12. 30:1 She envied her *mitzvos*, thinking they were the reason Leah merited having children.
- 13. 30:5 Dan.
- 14. 30:14 Jasmine (Yasmin).
- 15. 30:22 That Rachel gave Leah the "signs of recognition" that Yaakov had taught her, so that Leah wouldn't be embarrassed.
- 16. 30:24 "Yosef" means "He will add." Rachel prayed to Hashem for another son, in addition to Yosef.
- 17. 31:7 One hundred times.
- 18. 31:41 *Yagar Sahadusa*, meaning 'wall of testimony.'
- 19. 31:50 Lavan.
- 20. 32:1 The angels of Eretz Yisrael.



Yaakov wanted to marry Rachel, but her father, the money-hungry Lavan, would never agree unless it somehow served his own selfish interests. Since Yaakov was empty-handed, the only thing he could offer Lavan was his services. He therefore displayed his exceptional strength and prowess so Lavan would desire him as a servant.

Heard from Rabbi Avigdor Miller

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