

Ethan's Davar Torah – Elle Toldot

Shalom everyone and thank you for coming from near and far.

Today I want to share some words about my Torah portion: Elle Toldot.

Jacob and Esav were the sons of Isaac and Rebecca, and the grandsons of Abraham and Sarah. Of the twins, Esav was the first to be born with Jacob following, holding his heel.

Isaac was sixty years old when the boys were born. Rebecca was 40 years old when she gave birth.

Esav is a man of the field, he has red hair and is very hairy, while Jacob is a plain simple man. He also has qualities of a great man that can become a leader.

Esav has always been outsmarted by Jacob as you will see soon.

One day, after Esav was done working at the fields, he was so tired and hungry that he begged Jacob for some food.

Jacob said, "you can have food as long as you agree to recognise me as the firstborn child" and Esav agrees.

I would not do the same as Esav because it's a privilege being the eldest child. There's other ways to get food than to give away your birthright.

I think that what Jacob did was pretty smart but also messed up because he knew that his brother was super hungry and decided to take advantage of it.

Later on, Esav is sent to the fields again to get some venison to prepare a fancy dinner for his father before he passes away.

Rebecca, who is Esav and Jacob's mom, tells Jacob to pretend to be Esav, in order to steal their father's blessing and win his father's inheritance.

I think that's a little bit strange because usually, moms should not be taking sides and shouldn't be preferring one son over the other.

Jacob covers his entire body with hair to be hairy like Esav and comes in with the fancy dinner instead of Esav, and as a result, Jacob became the main head of the family and the heir to the promises of Abraham.

Esav finds out that his brother Jacob betrays him and takes his blessing before his dying father.

He is furious and vows to kill Jacob.

Rebekah tells Jacob to run away to a faraway place to work for his uncle Laban, so that Esav can never catch him. Jacob is now forced to work for his uncle who makes him do unfair things.

I actually think that Jacob deserves it, since he did some unfair things to his brother Esav.

Laban eventually made Jacob work seven years for Laban's daughter Rachel, but instead of Rachel being under the veil, Laban's eldest daughter is, and Jacob ends up being forced to marry her.

What happened to Jacob at the wedding was similar to what he did to Esav when he dressed up in goat skin and pretended to be his brother. I think Jacob deserves this punishment.

What goes around comes around.

Jacob agrees to work another seven years for Laban and eventually gets married to Rachel. Jacob eventually became really rich and turned Laban's anger and envy at him.

Jacob and Esav finally meet each other after fourteen years, and after Jacob becomes a little bit more mature.

Jacob tries to give Esav many gifts but Esav does not accept them, which makes Jacob believe that Esav still wants to kill him.

Finally they embrace out in the field and Jacob says :

"Now I can find God in this place and in your eyes".

I feel that Jacob's embrace with his brother Esav was a way to say that he's asking for forgiveness.

To conclude, I feel that this Parasha teaches me that you should not take advantage of people.

I also learn that you can always change the way you act, and even if you've done things that are wrong, you're always able to try again and do better and make peace with yourself and others.

This reminds me of Yom Kippur which is a day in which you fast and ask for forgiveness for your sins from God and mankind.

For me, in Yom Kippur, I fast for the whole day, I go to the Temple, I go up to the stage and pray to the scrolls and ask for forgiveness from my family members.

I also have some personal conversations directly with God.

I wanted to have my Bar-Mitzva in Jerusalem because

I feel more connected with my people in Israel.

I like being Jewish, I love the holidays and I think the

Jewish people are very smart people with great accomplishments.

Our contributions to the world are unmeasurable.

I love Israel.

I feel like it has special importance now when we're at war, because now that Israel is still being attacked and I still wanted to go, means that my determination on doing my Bar Mitzvah in Israel is special, strong and very important.

Showing solidarity with the Israeli people and what they're going through is important to me because I am one of them.

Thank you for listening.