



### Thoughts on the Parsha

by Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

In this weeks פרשה we encounter the amazing description of יעקב, disguised as עשו, approaching his father to claim the ברכות that were rightfully his. יעקב famously declares that "The voice is the voice of יעקב and the hands are the hands of עשו". Rashi explains that יעקב was noting that the soft nature of יעקב's words, ("please get up") were different than the normal tone expressed by עשו ("get up my father"). This description is somewhat puzzling. We know that עשו was a רשע who struggled in areas of דרך ארץ. But we are taught that he excelled in one area - honoring his father - which the מדרש describes as being 100 times greater than the כבוד אב of the great רבנן Shimon Ben Gamliel! If so, how can it be that עשו used course language in addressing his father?! Couldn't he control himself? Didn't he realize that this situation called for a different tone and a different vocabulary? My Rebbe, זצ"ל, explained that when we develop bad מדות, and perhaps even more so when we are insensitive in the way

### MTI Recent Happenings

#### SHABBOS WITH THE ROSH YESHIVA

by Gavin Kornblum  
10th Grade

A few weeks ago, Rav Akiva Grunblatt, Rosh Yeshiva of the Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva in Queens, New York, came to St. Louis for Shabbos. It was an amazing, uplifting and inspiring few days. On Friday, when the Rosh Yeshiva arrived in St. Louis, a lot of the bochurim went to the airport to greet him. When we met up with the Rosh Yeshiva in the airport we sang and danced; it was such an honor to be in the presence of the Rosh Yeshiva and to be able to dance with him. On Friday night, after the seudah, the Rosh Yeshiva held a question and answer session in the bais medrash, responding to questions talmidim had written for the Rosh Yeshiva to answer. The Rosh Yeshiva spoke about many different halacha and hashkafa issues and even managed to throw in a joke or two. Afterwards, we had an oneg Shabbos where Rav Grunblatt answered more questions and told amazing stories. The rest of Shabbos was very mean-

### Featured Torah Message

#### "IT'S ON ME"

by Shmuel Lynn  
11th Grade

In פרשת תולדות it describes that יעקב wanted to bless רבקה. רבקה wanted יעקב to receive the brachos, so she told יעקב to go into יצחק's room and say he was עשו. יעקב responded that he was afraid that יצחק would notice that he was not עשו and then curse him instead of giving him a blessing. רבקה answered יעקב, עלי קללתך בני, meaning that the curse that יצחק may curse יעקב with would apply to רבקה.

The question is, how could רבקה say such a thing? After all, even if she says so, obviously it won't work. If יצחק would curse יעקב, even if רבקה really wants the curse to apply to her, the curse will still be on יעקב. What did רבקה mean when she said עלי קללתך בני?

An answer is brought in one of the אחרונים. רבקה saw with רוח הקודש that יצחק would not curse יעקב. When she said עלי קללתך she was referring to something else completely. She was hinting at the future challenges that יעקב would be

### Sparks of Mussar

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#### Reb Yisroel Salanter - "The Greatest Zchus"

R' Yisroel held that two people should not say kaddish simultaneously, and the synagogue followed his teaching. On the yortzheit of R' Yisroel's father, a simple Jew who had yortzheit for his daughter was also in shul.

The man, assuming that R' Yisroel had priority, was very distressed at the thought of not saying Kaddish for the elevation of his daughter's soul. But R' Yisroel went over to him and said with a smile, "Will you please say the Kaddish?"

The congregation was amazed that R' Yisroel was willing to give up his obligation of honoring his father. R' Yisroel explained that the merit of doing chesed is greater than that of saying Kaddish.

we speak, the מידה becomes deeply embedded in who we are and it's difficult to simply turn it on and off at will. עשו's imperfect speech was too deeply imbedded in his personality for him to change, even when faced with tremendous motivation to do so.

On the flipside, we see that יעקב, who was probably aware that his manner of speech was not reflecting the behavior of עשו, refused to consider changing his speech even temporarily to better accomplish his role! He was unwilling to tamper with his high standard of proper speech and דרך ארץ.

Let us realize how important it is to develop proper middos and דרך ארץ because our true מדות will always be reflected in our actions and behaviors!

ingful and inspiring. After Shabbos was over, I even got to ask the Rosh Yeshiva a question, one-on-one. Getting to spend Shabbos with the Rosh Yeshiva was an experience I will never forget.



Rav Akiva Grunblatt, שליט"א, addresses the community at a Melava Malka at the home of Charles & Naomi Ruth Detusch

subject to brought out by 3 individuals - עשו לָבֹן יוֹסֵף. (The (The ראשי תיבות of these words spell עלי.) So, she was saying that יעקב's curse is "עלי", and she never meant to say that any curses would apply to her.

In פרשת מקץ when שמעון was in prison and the brothers had to bring בנימין to Egypt, יעקב said יוסף איננו ושמעון איננו ואת בנימין יוסף איננו - תקחו עלי היו כלנה, יוסף is gone, שמעון is gone, and now you want to take away בנימין; upon me are all these things. Here, too, the words need commentary. The end of the phrase, עלי, seemingly has nothing to do with what יעקב was saying. What did he mean?

We can now understand that יעקב was saying, יוסף is gone – the last of my 3 curses is upon me. Why should there be a new trouble? I'm supposed to live a quiet life now. עשו לָבֹן יוֹסֵף should have been "all" my life's troubles.

## Upcoming & Ongoing MTI Community Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
<b>7TH &amp; 8TH GRADE BOYS!</b> JOIN MTI FOR <b>LEARNING, BASKETBALL &amp; DINNER</b> <b>MONDAY EVENING</b> <b>DECEMBER 2ND</b> TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT RABBI BREGMAN 314-363.5977 RABBIBREGMAN@MISSOURITORAH.ORG		<b>ATTENTION LADIES!</b> ADD SOME INSPIRATION TO YOUR WEEK - JOIN MRS. TOBY GOLDMAN <b>Women's Mussar Series</b> THREE CLASS OPTIONS WEEKLY IN U.CITY & CHESTERFIELD <i>Each class is self-contained - join for one or join for all!</i>				

Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 1	7th & 8th Grade Learning, Basketball & Dinner Program @ MTI 2	Women's Mesilas Yesharim Chesterfield 3	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 4	5	6	7
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 8	9	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 10	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 11	12	13	14
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 15	16	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield 17	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 18	19	20	21
22	23	MTI Chanukah Chagiga 24	TICK Legal Holiday Shiur with Rabbi Wasser 25	26	27	28

## Mazel Tov!

Rabbi & Mrs. Josh Bregman  
on the birth of a boy!

## JOIN US 5 minute Ahavas Chessed with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

After shacharis, 4 days a week, Rabbi Wasser learns Ahavas Chessed with the talmidim of our yeshiva. To join a WhatsApp group to receive the recording immediately following the shiur, scan the QR code!



LESS THAN 1 WEEK  
*Left to enter!*



**4 Round Trip Tickets to Eretz Yisrael**

**Early Bird RAFFLE**

All tickets paid and received by Wednesday, November 20th will be entered into a raffle to win a \$500 ALEH gift card.

**RAFFLE DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 4TH**

**TICKET PRICES:**  
 \$45 - \$1,000  
 \$20 - \$500  
 \$12 - \$300

**QUALIFYING PAYMENT TYPE:**  
 CASH  
 CREDIT CARD  
 CHECK  
 BILL  
 BAYDARE

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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