

Berashit 25:29 ויזד יעקב נזיד “and Yakov prepared lentils”

What was he cooking for ?

Rashi – for the mourner’s meal, because Avraham had died that day, so Izhak was a mourner.

Why עדשׁים - lentils?

Rashi – because they resemble a גלגל - a ball - and just as life and death are like a ball going round and then returning, so the mourner is cut off from the world for seven days and then returns to normal life.

Also this reminds us of the earth, which is also a ball going round. As ברשׁית reminds us, we were created from the earth and we return to the earth.

Now Esav was very good to his father. For example, he put on his best clothes to serve him, got for him the choicest foods, married a different wife to please him, and so on.

Did Yakov feel guilty that he was always with his mother and not with his father ?

Yes – according to the אור החיים who said:

אולי כי לצד שראה שהועילה לגימתו של עשו ליזחק

Maybe because he saw that the food Esav prepared and fed to his father helped (to make his father love him)

לקח גם הוא דרך לבשל תבשילין

He also went the same way by cooking some food for him

Why ?

לקרב לב אביו אליו כעשו

To make his father love him as he did Esav

Here we see again the problems caused by one parent favoring one child over another.

We must always remember the example of Avraham as given by Rashi on Berashit 22:2

קח נא את בנך take your son – I have two sons

את יחידך the only one – They are both only sons to their respective mothers

אשר אהבת whom you love

Avraham: ונהם אני אוהב I love both of them

May Hashem give us the wisdom to always act to our children like Avraham and not fall into the trap like יצחק and יעקב , of favoring one over another.