

1. Esav acted as if he was very careful in mitzvot. He would ask his father, "do I need to take off maaser from salt, or from straw?" Esav acted as if he wanted to be in business so he could give maaser to the Torah Scholars. So Yitzchak thought that he was very righteous for wanting to help the Torah scholars, like Yissochar and Zevulun.
2. Rivka didn't want to say Loshon Hara that Esav was bad. She also figured that if Hashem wanted Yitzchak to know He would tell him. She also worried that if she told him, Yitzchak would say that it was her fault because she came from a family of reshaim, and didn't want to be blamed for Esav's failings. I think she didn't want to give him a heart attack!
3. Some say that Yaakov wanted to tip over Esav, to make the rasha fall! Others say that Yaakov was showing that the things that Esav steps on with his heel are exactly the things which Yaakov grabs in life. Esav stepped on mitzvot, midot tovot, morals and ethics. But the tsadik Yakov loved those things in life.
4. Yitzchak knew that Yaakov was learning Torah all the time so he didn't need his blessing because Torah study itself will bring blessings! But Esav, who works, needs his blessing more!
5. Rivka did not want Avraham Avinu to know that there might be a rasha inside her stomach. She was embarrassed, so she preferred to inquire from Shem and Ever the elder scholars of the time instead.
6. Are Rabbis tell us, that most children become like their uncles and since Esav's uncle was Lavan he was a rasha too!
7. Hashem replied, Esav says, "why do I need this **Bechorah** (service)?" I say, "why do you deserve this **Beracha** (blessing)?" It's the same letters juggled. Because it's the one who serves Hashem that gets the most blessings! And if Esav didn't want to serve Hashem in the Bet Hamikdash then Yaakov will receive the blessing instead.
8. Avraham Avinu was kind to the whole world. There was no one that didn't feel his kindness. Even the little children who so often people tend to ignore were given his great attention, love, and kindness and that's why the children too cried when he passed away.
9. Esav harasha only did one mitzvah, that of kibud av, of honoring his father. [He did not do the mitzvah of kibud em, honoring his mother.]
10. The Plishtim were jealous of Avraham. Such is the strangeness of jealousy that they would clog off wells that would eventually benefit themselves. They did not want his wealthy son Yitzchak to prosper more. It's weird, that the rich are jealous of those more rich than themselves.
11. He was so jealous, and when a person is jealous of another they do not want to be around this person. They feel there is not enough room in the world for each other. So Avimelech said that Yitzchak should go away. He lost out immediately, because much of the blessing that Avimelech had in his country was because of Yitzchak's presence. Once Yitzchak left the fruits and vegetables deteriorated. Avimelech realized why this was happening, so he went to Yitzchak to beg him to make some kind of treaty together.
12. Esav married a very bad woman who did avoda zara and even brought it incense, causing smoke to rise for the avoda zara. Yitzchak and Rivka **shouted** at Esav, but he wouldn't listen. It pained them to have a child who was bad and didn't want to listen to their mussar (criticism). They were also sad because that their ruach hakodesh went away due to their anger, and due to the company of a rasha.
13. Avraham's **job** was to go out into the world and bring people under Hashem. Yitzchak's **job** was to show that he could stay in Israel even if the going got rough, so Yitzchak was not allowed to leave Israel. His job was to show you must sometimes stay in Israel even its hard, so his form of serving Hashem was different from that of Avrahams.
14. Esav said, I am going to open my mouth so pour the food in, like a camel. This is not proper etiquette, but since when did Esav care what's proper behavior.
15. Since Esav excelled in kibud av, like no one else, he merited that his descendants would become **rulers of the world**. The galut that were in now is called galut Edom because he honored his father! We must make our Kibud Av V'em outdo his merit in order to end this Galut!!
16. Hashem loves the prayers of the righteous. Hashem therefore challenged many great people to be barren in order so that they speak up, and hear their voice. Also once they're praying for themselves they will pray for so many others who need it. Their pleasant voice will bring redemption to others in need! They will also pray that the **quality** of their future children be that much better as well!
17. Yitzchak was sanctified like a Korbon Olah, once he was to be sacrificed at the akeida. A korban Olah is not allowed to leave the Bet Hamikdash, so too he was not allowed to leave Israel. Hashem also said that outside of Israel they doesn't deserve such an outstanding person!
18. When Yaakov entered by Yitzchak in order to receive the beracha, Yitzchak felt the sensation of Gan Eden. When Esav entered afterwards, Yitzchak felt the dread of gehinom. The contrast was frightening!
19. If a son doesn't keep the Torah, (has vesholom) he must be given mussar (constructive criticism). If parents don't criticize a child because they "love" him, this is not a good love. They should chastise the child to improve his ways, and the love will grow much better. Incidentally, the Gemara in Makot tells us a shocking thing: Even if a child is good the parent should discipline him, even with a patch (spanking). If it's administered with the right measure it will make the **good child even better**. (Just don't get carried away, that's child abuse.) Don't spoil your kid. Give him/her Vitamin N (-No)!
20. Yitzchak wanted Esav to trouble himself to get the food. By troubling himself for kibud av, which was his special mitzvah, this would increase his merit to be able to receive the great blessing.
21. Esav rejected and despised the Avodat Bet Hamikdash. We must not follow in his ways of ignoring and skipping Karbonot, which in a sense is a form of despising. Every man must say everyday at least the pesukim mentioning the Olat Tamid and Ketoret. This is a **minimum requirement!**
22. Yitzchak went to Grar when there was a terrible famine in the world. But when he planted, the land produced a hundred times as much as it would if there was no famine! He planted one seed and it would grow a hundred times larger and taller than everyone else. He became so wealthy that Avimelech became jealous. [Don't you wish Hashem would grants you "Miracle Grow" to be able to know more in Torah than you ever expected? After all there is a **spiritual famine** in the world today!]
23. Esav was so hairy because he was like an animal! Just like an animal is hairy this hinted that he would live a very animalistic existence.
24. Men used to joke that they would rather have the money of selling manure from Yitzchak's mules, than to have the diamonds and gold of Avimelech. Yitzchak's wealth was greater than we can possibly fathom.
25. Dovid Hamelech was also born red. Shmuel Hanavi feared that maybe he had murderous instincts like Esav Harasha. But, Hashem assured him that he has "good eyes", and will only kill at the consent of the Sanhedrin. (i.e. the only blood he spelt was that of enemy attackers on Am Yisroel.)
26. Yaakov knew the Mishna in Avot that tells us to **stay away from a bad friend!** He also knew that a person should exile himself to a place of Torah. When a person goes away from home to learn, he starts to shine in Torah. Because he's able to be himself and even greater than any one expected. This has been the custom for so many years where a Ben Torah travels away from home to achieve greater perfection in Torah knowledge.
27. A person should **frequently** ask Tzadikim for blessings because we find that Rut who did not have a child before she was forty, and when Boaz blessed her, she immediately had a son. We find also that Avimelech's wife was childless, but when **Avraham prayed** to Hashem to heal

- Avimelech and his household, the prayer caused her and everyone in the palace to all have sons that year. So we see that a tzadik can make miracles happen.
28. Esav acted so well that he even fooled some into thinking that he was a "Mashiach" (supervisor) of Kashrut.
 29. When Esav cried, it showed that he really valued his father's blessing. This was a great honor to Yitzchak. Therefore, Esav merited gaining Mount Sair, and rulership over the Jews in Galut. To get out of Galut we must use **tears in our prayers** and teshuva to counter the tears of Esav.
 30. Yitzchak was angry with Esav's wicked wives. Anger dims a person's eyesight. Yitzchak stared at Esav ha'rashas face, and someone who stares at a rasha's face loses his vision (so don't stare at all the wicked people on television and sports). [Lehavdil] Yitzchak also stared at the shechina of Hashem during the akeida, which was too overwhelming and effected his eyesight. The angels cried at akeidat Yitzchak from seeing such an amazing feat of a human sacrificing his beloved son totally to Hashem, and their tears went into Yitzchok's eyes. The smoke of Esav's wives avoda zara offerings also dimmed his eyes. Additionally, he was not to see that Yaakov was taking the blessings. Also Yitzchak suggested to Hashem that man should suffer to atone his sins and spare him suffering in Gehenom, so he got to suffer first.
 31. Esav was born beet red and Yitzchak feared that maybe he wasn't healthy. He planned on making his milah when he was thirteen just like Yishmael did. But, at thirteen Esav ran away and did not let anyone give him a Brit Milah. This was a clear sign that Esav acted like a goy.
 32. Until the twins Yaakov and Esav became **thirteen** (Bar Mitzva) it was really hard to tell their true nature, because they both went to school. But at thirteen when Yaakov was running to Yeshiva and Esav was running away from Yeshiva it was apparent who was who!
 33. Rivka's wicked family, especially Lavan, blessed her that she should have a million descendants. The wicked have no power to bless someone, and the wicked persons blessing turn into a curse! So she had less children than was meant to be. Also she **complained** during her painful regnancy saying, "why did I pray for a child when it brings so much pain? Who needs it?" She shouldn't have said that because after complaining that was the last pregnancy she ever had. It never pays to complain. (The Jews in the Midbar complained about Israel and they never got to enjoy it!)
 34. The night of Pesach. It seems that's a most auspicious time to bless your children.
 35. Dama would not disturb his father's sleep even to make millions of dollars. Dama would not sit on his father's stone-chair even after his death. Once when Dama's mother humiliated him in front of all the Roman dignitaries, slapping him in the face with her shoe, and throwing his wallet into the sea, he didn't even get angry at her. The Gemara says we should learn from that goy how to honor our parents!
 36. Many times, great tzadikim told their children not to show off their wealth so not to cause goyim to be jealous. We see that when Avimelech saw Yitzchak's prosperity he banished him from the land. This happened in Spain with the Jews in 1492 when Queen Ezabella was jealous of a Jewish woman's wealth... I'm afraid we are not following this advice. People are building ostentatious homes, and I hope we don't suffer for it, G-d forbid.
 37. It seems Shem served Metushela for **ninety-eight** years. When one assists the Rabbis, it makes him much closer to them, and then he can see much more practical Torah applications and practices. So serving Rabbis will help you much more than just learning from them!
 38. A baby learns the Torah in a mother's stomach **to survive**. The only way a Jew can live is with Torah. When a baby is submerged in water for nine months, Torah is the oxygen and nutrients for its survival and development. Also it lets Torah be its subconscious mindset.
 39. The reason we don't eat before blessing our children Friday night, is because the starting of Shabbat is such an auspicious moment as the angels escort us to our home and we want the angels to see us bless our children. But, by Yitzchak even after he ate the angels were still all over his home.
 40. "Nimrod's clothes" were really the Kotnot Ohr that Hashem made for Adam Harishon, which had upon them designs of the animal kingdom. If an animal's picture was touched then that animal would come and obey the one wearing the clothes. These were supernatural clothes, and that's why Esav coveted these clothes and killed Nimrod to get them. Esav didn't leave this clothing at home for fear that his wives would be disloyal and then use the clothes against him. He therefore only entrusted these clothing to his mother Rivkah. It's these very clothes that Yaakov wore to get the beracha from Yitzchok.
 41. Hashem wanted the oldest in each family to serve in the Bet Hamikdash to be an example for all the younger siblings to see. This would impress upon them that the fortunate way of living is by serving in the Bet Hashem. However when the first born sinned with the Egel, the **privilege** of serving Hashem was given primarily to the Kohanim.
 42. Yitzchak and Rivka told Esav to get rid of his wicked wives. But Esav went off the derech and refused to send out his wicked wives. This was terribly painful for Yitzchak and Rivka. Some say that Yitzchok hoped by giving the beracha to Esav he would behave better.
 43. There is a debate in the Gemara if a blind person must do mitzvot. Most poskim hold that a blind person is responsible for mitzvot! There are some that hold that a blind person can't do averot, but he need not do the mitzvot either, and whatever he does is considered extra credit. But, we hold he really is responsible.
 44. Yaakov did not want to have a chavruta like Esav while he was in the womb. He didn't want to learn Torah in company of a hater of Torah and an evil doer. I also believe that Yaakov wanted to escape so he could **do** the Mitzvot already, and to **teach** Torah to others!! After all Yaakov knew that there's no greater success than to teach others Torat Hashem!
 45. At thirteen Esav already left Yeshiva. But at fifteen he publicly violated the Torah and it's commandments. The first two years after his Bar-mitzvah Avraham Avinu was still alive and he wouldn't dare sin in public. At fifteen Avraham died and Esav sinned publicly.
 46. The infamous Esav and Nimrod are the only hunters mentioned in Humash. We see from here that the sport of hunting is not a Jewish profession. It was practiced by the wicked. Jews have much better ways to spend there past time.
 47. Certain mitzvot bring a person kaparah for his sins. But one mentioned in this week's parsha is marrying. We learn that when Esav married his cousin Machlat the daughter of Yishmael, Hashem was willing to forgive his sins in the merit of marrying into a "fine family". It seems Hashem wants to let the couple start with a clean record, a new leaf, as a team to help each other serve Him better. That's why A Hatan and Kalah observe the eve of their wedding with teshuva and prayers.
 48. Esav's wife Yehudit bat Beri was a rasha involved with avoda zara.
 49. Hashem wanted that Yitzchak would already be an accomplished and perfect person before he had Yaakov. Therefore he could now devote all his time and energy into developing Yaakov into becoming a gadol hador. If Yitzchak had been younger he would have to balance his own spiritual pursuit at the expense of Yakov. So Hashem preferred that Yitzchak would be older and perfect when Yaakov was born so he could now focus best on his son. Plus Yitzchok and Rivkah realized each others greatness, and prayed to Hashem that all children they have should be from each other.
 50. If the voice of Torah is heard in the study halls than the goyim will not attack the Jews. But if G-d forbid Torah study is not heard in the Batei Midrashot than G-d forbid the goyim would attack.

51. Reb Shimon ben Gamliel once said that no one ever honored their father more than the way I honor Rabbi Gamliel, and the way Esav honored his father. Reb Shimon Gamliel said he found one way that Esav had greater Kibud Av than him. Whenever Esav served his father he would cloth himself in royal clothes so his father should feel that much more important. Reb Shimon Ben Gamliel knew that we should learn even from the wicked Esav.