

ANSWERS

1. Yaakov Avinu the greatest of the Avot has his face engraved onto Hashem's kiseh hakavod. When Yaakov was passing by Har Habayit the angels down here ran up to tell the angels above "come see that great tzadik, whose very **face is on Hashem's throne** is resting right here!" They were all rushing to see the tzadikim up close! [It's interesting that people hang up pictures of those that they admire. Some hang up sports-stars, while lehavdil Hashem portrays the picture of Yaakov Avinu, the true hero.]
2. The Gemara tells us a surprising thing. That one who doesn't stop learning Torah for anything, needs not to stop to pray either! An example would be Raban Shimon Bar Yochai whose constant occupation was learning Torah non-stop that he didn't need to pray. For in the merit of his Torah, Hashem would provide him with all his needs. Until now Yaakov was **learning Torah in the Yeshiva of Shem V'ever non-stop** around the clock. So he didn't need to stop to daven Arbit. But now that he was on his way to work with Lavan he needed to pray!
3. Yaakov foresaw with Ruach Hakodesh that the Beis Hamikdash would be destroyed. He did not feel comfortable lying in a spot where the Beis Hamikdash would one day be in ruins. He therefore put rocks under his head to **mourn the Hurban**.
4. The Gemara tells us that the fourteen years that Yaakov learned in Shem V'ever he never slept on a bed. He learned Torah day and night all those years with outstanding sacrifice! David Hamelech also **hated sleep** and preferred to stay up all night all the time singing Tehillim and learning Torah. Yaakov and Dovid slept similarly-only to drowse a brief moment to gain back energy. (Note: Us earthlings, however should try to sleep eight hours maximum or six hours minimum to be able to learn Torah with a clear head.)
5. Yaakov knew that one of the responsibilities of a husband is to bring **joy to his wife**, his partner in life. Yaakov knew that he would not be able to be sufficiently happy, as he knew Esav was hunting his life. He figured it would take seven years for Esav to calm down and it was in that time that he agreed to work. After that time he would be able to make his wife happy to fulfill the mitzvah "V'simach et Ishto".
6. Yaakov took twelve stones from the Akeidat Yitzchak. He put them under his head and around him as well to protect him from animals. The rocks wanted to all be under his head, and Hashem made this happen. This symbolized that although Yaakov would have twelve sons they would all be one **unified nation**.
7. "**Adina**" was Lavan's wife, but barren without children. When **Yitzchak** told Yaakov "go to Lavan's house and marry his daughters". Lavan was blessed to have daughters.
8. When Yaakov was praying Arbit it was really before night. Hashem had just made the sun set quicker that day so Yaakov would stay the night by the Makom Hamikdash. So we too can pray Arbit while it's still day also (and just repeat the Shema after dark).
9. Leah was the first person to **name a child** Yehudah, which means **thanks to Hashem**. Surely the previous Tzadikim always thanked Hashem- but she was the first to name a kid after that!
10. "Lavan" is a good name which means white, but really he was a filthy crook with a bad reputation.
11. It is okay to be jealous of a Tzadik or Tzadiket admiring their high level of **fear of Hashem**. (Just be careful that it doesn't turn in to a ruach ra'ah like Shaul suffered with Dovid Hamelech)
12. It seems the stone required about thirty men to roll it off. Could you imagine that he had the strength to lift up a trucks weight? It was because Yaakov learned **Torah Lishma**, that he possessed such energy and power!
13. Yaakov set up a stone pillar as a **monument in honor of Hashem**. Once this was a nice custom, but when the goyim started to worship with monuments, so it became an unfavorable act. Also Yaakov married two (some say four) sisters, which would later be forbidden.
14. Rivka warned Yaakov her son **not to forget the mitzvot** when he goes to Lavan's home. She knew that even with a strong Yeshiva education, one who leaves the Yeshiva oasis and enters the territory of the yetzer harah, is in trouble, if he doesn't arm himself with caution.
15. Although Rachel meant well to prevent her father from sinning it was a **slight to her father's honor**. A child must be sensitive never to hurt the feelings of parents. She also died sooner for **acting on her own** without consulting with her husband the Gadol Hador!
16. Yaakov kept on saying **Tehilim**. The pious always learn while they work!
17. Yaakov never wasted zerah in vain, and in merit of his **kedusha** he was blessed with so many offspring. The Midrash says that Yaakov did not leave this world until **he saw 600,000 descendants!** Fear of Hashem merits great children.
18. When Esav realized Elifaz didn't do his job, he himself went to murder Yaakov. Hashem made miracles for Yaakov to **split the Yarden** with his stick and then to have a tunnel to escape.
19. A **blind person**, a **poverty** stricken person, a **metzorah**, and a **barren** person feel dead somewhat. There is a separate category which is also called dead and that's the wicked.
20. It seems that it was only in **Israel** where they had to keep the whole Torah perfectly. That is why Rachel E'manu passed away on their way to Israel.
21. Amalek
22. Leah's **suffering caused her to pray** so much harder, which produced better results more than any of the other wives of Yaakov. Also people that are **ashamed for no reason** eventually are elevated and honored greatly.
23. Lavan kept on changing the deal with Yaakov of which animals to divide in their partnership. He changed the deal a hundred different times. Plus when he met Yaakov he kissed his mouth to check if there were any **jewels** in it, as many carried jewels to avoid paying tax.
24. Yaakov really cried **tears of joy** when he met Rachel! Yaakov was also sad that after a hundred and twenty they would not rest together in the Merat Hamachpelah. Yaakov cried that he didn't have **gifts** for her. Yaakov also cried because the **goyim suspected** him of acting immoral, kissing Rachel, who they didn't know was his five year old first cousin.
25. If a person is in **danger** he should promise that if Hashem saves him he would give more tzedakah, and increase his ma'sim tovim. In merit of the pledge he will merit more protection.
26. The Avot are mentioned together 18 times. It's in their merit that we can pray to Hashem these 18 berachot.

27. Yaakov Avinu promised to give **ma'aser of his children** too, Levi was dedicated entirely to Avodas Hashem!
28. Mandrakes were known to induce fertility. Even the righteous who trust in Hashem are required to **utilize the means** that are considered effective in that generation to have more children.
29. Leah's eyes were **sensitive** to the sun, due to her constant weeping that she not fall in the lot of Esav. Therefore, Rachel the younger one had to be the shepherd. Rachel was **active and industrious**. She was therefore rewarded that Yaakov decided to marry her.
30. The letter Shin- spelled out- is begimatria 360, which is the same numerical value of Shas. The tefillin remind you to learn Shas, as our **three** Avot and **Four** Emahot so wished.
31. What a woman looks at during her pregnancy will influence the looks and nature of the child. In the time of Rav Yochanan- one of the most beautiful sages of the Gemara- many women would stare at the holy Rabbi and pray that their children would be **beautiful physically and spiritually** like him as well!
32. Rachel would be needed on the path of Bet Lechem so when her descendants, the Jewish people, would be going into Galut at least they would have **encouragement seeing her tomb** and know that she would be praying for them. Also Rachel gave up her turn to be in the company of Yaakov in order to get the fertility plant and that wasn't a hundred percent respectful to skip the **company of such a Tzadik**. So later she was denied to be in his presence after death too.
33. Truthfully, Yaakov was extremely wealthy at first. However, Hashem did not want Rachel or Leah to be **influenced by his massive wealth** as a motive for marriage. Hashem wanted their marriage to be one hundred percent "leshem shamayim" to marry such a Tzadik. It's a marriage for Hashem's sake that has the greatest success! Eventually Yaakov became very wealthy again anyway.
34. We find that as soon as Yaakov came to Lavan, Lavan's wealth shot up and he was blessed with sons. We find this repetitively throughout the T'nach that when a tzadik graced a home with his presence the home was blessed much more.
35. What a person dreams about is a clear indication of what the person really loves. The Gemara says that a person dreams about what he thinks about. Yaakov Avinu dreamt about angels in heaven, and the Torah. What do we remember dreaming about?!
36. Leah and Rachel were **twenty-two** years old when they got married. Some say that Rachel was twelve years old when they got married. When Yaakov met Rachel and kissed her she was only **five years old**.
37. Rachel lived **fourteen** years after her marriage to the age of **thirty-six** (and according to some twenty-six). Leah lived to be **forty-four**.
38. The Gemara says that **what rashaim call good the tzadikim call bad!** In life we find it's often an opposite of interest between the good and the bad, so Hashem did not want Lavan talking to Yaakov at all. Some explain that even if a goy talks good he might use an avodah zarah's name in his speech and Hashem did not want anything of that nature to be mentioned.
39. Yehudah means he **shall praise**. This was a prophecy that the Jewish people will always praise Hashem. Most Jews today come from shevet Yehudah. This is because **real appreciation to Hashem** is what makes the Jewish people so special.
40. The Talmud teaches us, that if you want to persuade a person, you can do this by sharing food and drink. It's for that reason that many business deals are closed over a lunch together. Yaakov fed Lavan, his opponent, to win him over. As the posuk says, "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat". When you bring a snack to school have your friends in mind and they will probably become better friends. It is for the same reason that it's also very important for husband and wives to go out to eat together often.
41. Rachel Emanu was probably the greatest demonstrator of loving another. To share everything she loved in life, the great holy tzadik Yaakov Avinu, and his home, and give all this to her sister so she wouldn't feel bad. She has got to be the greatest story of "Veahava lerecha kamocho" I have ever heard. Think about how little we want to share sometimes with our own brothers and sisters.
42. Hashem answered, "is that the way you talk to a broken hearted barren women? By your life, your children will have to bow down to her child" and they were humbled at the time of a hunger.
43. The tzadik Yaakov was extremely powerful. But he knew that it's **not worth lessening our character traits in a fit of anger** even when we can justify it. Anger ruins us all, and Yaakov would not let that, scar his neshama for nothing.
44. Hazal says, the more Torah a person learns the more angels surround and protect him. Actually, each mitzvah you do will create another angel that will defend you. When Yaakov was returning home the Midrash mentions an astronomical number of angels that came to parade and escort this tzadik home. We must try to create good angels from our deeds and not Heaven forbid bad ones!
45. Absolutely. Rachel was willing to risk her whole future so that her sister Leah should not be broken. Wow!
46. Leah cried her eyes out in prayer that she should marry a righteous person, and not the infamous wicked Esav. Not only did her prayers get answered, but also she ended marrying Yaakov even **before** his intended Rachel. She also **lived much longer as Yaakov's wife** even being the one that rests with Yaakov till today.
47. Yaakov knew his job would be to establish a Jewish people. He knew he must have perfect sons without sins. He therefore knew that he must learn Torah as much as he can, making him that much wiser and greater so that his offspring would be that much better. (Nowadays our poskim say that even if your in Yeshiva learning Torah with all your might you should get married no later than twenty-four if you can help it.)
48. The angels, Michael and Gavriel said, "we our going to destroy Sdom". Right from there they were punished and lost their positions as Hashem's high ministering angels, and they did not get their positions back for another **hundred and thirty eight years**. They were with the angels going up and down the ladder in Yaakov's dream.
49. Yosef was supposed to be Yaakov's bechor and Moshiach was supposed to come from Rachel. But, Yehudah was also deserving. So one Moshiach will come from Rachel and one from Leah. May Hashem make us see them very happily & soon Amen!
50. Most of us Jews are from Shevet Yehuda & Benyomin. A large percentage is also from Levi. The majority of the other shevatim were punished and sent to the other side of the mysterious Sambatyon River. Yehuda & Benyokin lived in closest proximity to the Bet Hamikdash which influenced them to be good and were therefore saved from that galut (exile).
51. When Yaakov saw in the morning that it was Leah he married. He said "why did you trick me"? She answered: "Doesn't a teacher

have students? Just like you acted like your brother to do the will of your mother, I acted like my sister to do the will of my father!"

52. Yaakov was dreaming Mishnayos! Tzadikim always think of torah the will of Hashem. Well, what do you expect- you dream about what you think about! Yaakov was learning while he was sleeping, so lets try not to be sleeping when we are learning!
53. Just as Yaakov removed the boulder in order to give water to the flocks, so too parents and teachers should remove the obstacles that prevent their children from learning Torah.
54. I don't know if Leah and her children knew of Rachel's kindness. If they did would they have been mean to Yosef? Would Leah of have made Rachel trade to get Yaakov back? This is a puzzle to me.
55. Esav committed five grave sins the day avrohom Avinu passed away. He killed Nimrod, did adultery, denied G-d, denied tehiat hametim and he despised the service in the Bet Hamikdash. The Torah only mentions specifically that he despised the mitzvah of the Bechora. This is what caused all the other sins to happen.