

Torahific Answers

- 1) We learn the **age of Bar Mitzvah** from Shimon and Levi, who destroyed the wicked people in their time, for being immoral. The Torah refers to one of them as a man for standing up against the evil in his time. At that time, Shimon was thirteen years old, and the first to be called a man. This is because the sign of being a man is to be able to **stand up against evil**.
- 2) Yaakov sent (approx.) four million angelic soldiers toward Esav! Esav was overwhelmed. He asked the ones in armor whose they are, and they said "Yaakov's". He saw the ones on horses and chariots and they said "we are Yaakov's". They **shook up Esav's army** until Esav begged for his life calling himself Yaakov's brother. They shook the hate out of him- albeit temporarily! When Esav met Yaakov he asked, "where did you get such an army?"
- 3) Tisha B'av.
- 4) Yaakov wished that he would **serve Hashem with a stong passion**, (lehavdil) like Lavan so energetically pursued evil.
- 5) The angel that attacked Yaakov was the angel that represented Esav. This angel is basically the Yetzer Hara, representing evil in the world. He could not tell Yaakov his name because the **Yetzer Hora's name changes every day** as he constantly changes his ploys. He also didn't want Yaakov to know his name because **he doesn't want us to know** how he is attacking. Others say that he didn't want his name to become an avoda zara, because angels are very sensitive to Hashem's honor.
- 6) The people who lived in the city of Shechem deserved death because **they didn't have a justice system**. Why wasn't Shechem Ben Hamor brought to trial for kidnapping Dinah- an innocent girl? For covering up for Shechem, the people were considered accomplices to the crime.
- 7) "Yisroel", means you will in the future gain the **final power over all opposition**. It can also be translated "**God rules**". It also can be defined as "**Prince of Hashem!**"
- 8) Yaakov was scared that he might not be protected because he or his children might have sinned, and there are frequent accusations on mankind.
- 9) Yaakov **longed in his heart to fulfill all of the mitzvot**. He was therefore credited as if he had actually done them. Also, one who **studies about** a mitzvah is rewarded as if he did it.
- 10) We are not allowed to eat the following parts of a kosher animal: **heleb** (certain fat), gid hanashe (sciatic nerve), shuman hagid (the fat surrounding the gid hanashe), or its blood.
- 11) The miracle-making staff of Yaakov was passed on to Yehudah, and then to Moshe and Aharon, followed by David Hamelech and his kingdom. Moshiach is going to get that staff and beat the enemies of Klal Yisroel with it very soon!
- 12) Yaakov built a **Bet Midrash** (House of Torah Learning). That is the "house" that the pasuk tells us that he built. Some say that he built a fortress so that Esav wouldn't be able to attack his family.
- 13) Yaakov was concerned that Esav was coming to fight, with the power of two Mitzvot that he did better than Yaakov. Namely, Kibud av V'em and Yishuv Eretz Yisroel. Yaakov was scared of anyone in his family being hurt, and the probable chance of having to kill Esav in self defense.
- 14) The angel blessed Yaakov that **his son's should be Tzadikim just like him!**
- 15) Yaakov's sheep were so fat and fine that people pleaded him to accept their powerful servants, horses and camels as a trade for any of his "blessed" sheep.
- 16) The Tanna Nitai H'arbeli is quoted for saying "stay away from a bad neighbor, and don't befriend a rasha". Dinah's downfall was that she went out to see what the goyim were enjoying. When Yaakov was learning in the Bet Midrash with all his sons, she went outside with jewelry as if to call attention to herself. She was greatly disgraced. She is buried next to this sage, whose advice she should have heeded.
- 17) The **goyim were making a parade and celebrating**. When Rachel, Leah, and the Shefahot went out, Dinah was noticed by Shechem who molested her.
- 18) Anti-Semitism makes us distanced from the goyim which is our virtue. Not to act like them. We are different! They remind us that, and that's much better for us.
- 19) Princess Timna was rejected by the Avot from converting. She wanted to be associated with the Avot's prominent family. So she married Esav's son Elifaz, and gave birth to Amalek. It's an unknown mystery why she wasn't accepted.
- 20) It seems Dinah was kidnapped for a small period of time. She was six when she gave birth to Osnat.
- 21) When Yaakov got to Shechem it was right before Shabbat. So he marked the Tehum limits, so none of his children should walk outside the area on Shabbat.
- 22) Dinah's brothers took all the money from Shechem because they collected "**boshet**". We say "hakol lifty hamevayesh vihamebayesh". Even though the goyim were killed you don't say "kom leh bederabah mineh" by goyim.
- 23) Yaakov was punished not to enjoy his son Yosef for 22 years since he wasn't in touch enough with his parents for the 22 years he was at Lavan's house. Rivkah never got to see her religious grandchildren physically in her lifetime. She died just as Yaakov was returning 36 years later.
- 24) On Mosaei Shabbat before the trip it's a segulah to read Parshat Vayishlah to merit a successful trip.
- 25) The Bnei Yisroel were punished, never to be allowed to eat the Gid Hanashe of an animal or beast. Since Yaakov's sons didn't escort him when he went back alone at night to get the forgotten containers. Their father got hurt, at that very part, so they are reminded eternally to **honor and escort parents!**
- 26) After Esav met Yaakov and was leaving to Seir, Hashem sped up Esav's travelling so Yaakov would not have to be uncomfortable to long being next to that frightening and wicked **terrorist Esav Harasha**.
- 27) When Esav tried to bite Yaakov's neck (like a vampire) Yaakov's neck was rock hard like marble and Esav cracked his teeth "Shinei reshaim shibarta". (He cried that now he needed dentures!)
- 28) Esav had 8 descendants that were kings before any of Yaakov's descendants were kings.
- 29) Yaakov's sons **crushed and ground up** the avoda zara before they buried it.
- 30) Jews being dispersed all over the globe is a blessing in disguise, so the goyim won't wipe them all out.
- 31) The Zohar says that Rachel didn't get to enjoy Binyomin in her lifetime since she **pained her father** when she confiscated his crazy avoda zara. [It seems this is a proof to the opinion in Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh Deah 240-18) that says, even if a parent is a rasha you must honor and fear him.]
- 32) Mordechai told Haman "just like my grandfather Binyomin Hatzadik never bowed to your grandfather Haman Harasha, I am not bowing down to you either!"

- 33) Yaakov was beaten by his sciatic nerve. But afterwards Hashem made the sun shine special rays to heal him. This symbolizes that in this night of galut although the goyim beat us, the geulah will come as sunbreak, and **Hashem will heal** all the wounds and scars of his people, physically and emotionally!
- 34) We find in the Gemara that Rav Yochanan gave his sister to a Jewish gangster in order to make him the famous Baal Teshuva and Amora Resh Lakish. She obviously endeared him to Torah. However, Yaakov hid away Dinah in a crate so Esav shouldn't take her. We can understand his trepidation. However, **he should have cried** when he knocked in the nails to the crate wishing he could of helped out his brother Esav more.
- 35) Binyomin was harassed by his brothers when they suspected him of stealing the goblet from Paroh's viceroy. They hit him between his soldiers. **Hashem ultimately defends the honor of those that are hurt for no reason.** Hashem feels for someone who is socially abused, and that's why his Shechina was in Binyomin's portion! Also because Binyomin never bowed to Esav Harasha.
- 36) The **Tur** had an angel help him write his popular commentary "Baal Haturim" in one night!! **Moshe Rabenu** wrote thirteen Sifrei Torah on his last day in this world, with angelic help. The **Bet Yosef**, the **Arizal**, and **their colleagues** enjoyed angel's helping them grow in Torah and Yirat Shamayim too! Its no wonder because these Tzadikim were such angels themselves!
- 37) Yaakov wanted the forgotten containers because they were purchased with kosher/clean money. That kind of money is hard to get, but it brings much more blessing with its purchases.
- 38) Milah is lessens ones desire for zenut. So Shimon and Levi told Shechem to all do this minor surgery, so as not to commit more immortality.
- 39) After the holocaust, Jews that are alive today must feel that they are the **remnant** who must make up for all the millions of victims of terrorism.
- 40) Red signifies the shame that Rachel spared her sister Leah. Such self-sacrifice for another Jew is an everlasting merit which is symbolized in a red string.
- 41) Since the 400 powerful soldiers of Esav fled, choosing to leave Esav alone, and not combat Yaakov. 400 Amaleki soldiers were spared, in a battle later on in history in the days when Dovid Hamelech fought against the Amalekim that burnt his town Tsiklag.
- 42) Curiosity can be a detrimental trait. Because if it's used to observe the wicked people's way of life, it contaminates the mind of its owner. Dinah should not have went to observe the festivities of the goyim in Shechem and she would of lived much happily ever after.
- 43) Shechem's father was called "Hamor", because his intelligence was no better that that of a donkey. He had to appoint his son to make all the decisions.
- 44) The yud in **Yisroel** stands for Yitzchak and Yaakov. The sinn stands for Sarah. The reish stands for Rivka and Rachel. The alef stands for Avrohom. The lamed stands for Leah!
- 45) Yaakov survived Lavan's home, and even arrived to Eretz Yisroel "complete". This means he had been healed from his limp; that none of his **children** were hurt from Esav; he was **healthy**; he was **wealthy**; and he **remembered all his Talmud** that he had learned!
- 46) Yaakov was 99 when he was coming back to move to Eretz Yisroel. I guess it's never to late to make "aliyah".
- 47) Dina's saga with Shechem was when she was a young girl. (Between 6-10) She was so humiliated that she refused to leave Shechem's house until Shimon promised to marry her. Afterwards he divorced her and Yaakov gave her to the righteous Iyob. Dinah suffered for her curiosity.
- 48) Reuven didn't really sin. He just tried to defend his mother's honor. He saw that Yaakov was going to move in to Bilhah's (Rachel's maid's) house. He thought its enough Rachel was my mother's rival, does she need Bilhah a maid to be her rival too? He moved Yaakov's bed in to Leah's house. This is called a sin because a child shouldn't meddle in a parent's private matters.
- 49) Of course **Yaakov was mightier than Esav**. If even Esav's angel above couldn't defeat Yaakov, do you think Esav could? Yaakov got his supernatural strength from learning **Torah Lishmah**- with 100% sincere intentions!!!
- 50) The **Yetzer Hara** doesn't mind if you preoccupy yourself with acts of **kindness or prayers**, like Avrohom and Yitzchok did. He hates when you **learn Torah** like Yaakov, and that he really tries to prevent!
- 51) Avner reasoned that Ish Boshet should be king after Shaul his father, instead of Dovid. Yoav, and most of Shevet Yehuda sided with Dovid and crowned him King. But, Avner the mighty general of Shaul opposed them. He understood the pasuk "and kings will issue from you", to refer to **Shevet Binyomin** who was yet to be born. So at least two kings had to come from Shevet Binyomin. In reality it was a prophesy referring to kings from **Shevet Yehuda** as well.
- 52) Haman [and Hitler] tried to annihilate the Jews. Kids lets remember: you overcome Amalek with **Torah and Tefillah!**
- 53) Yaakov sent presents to Esav and **cried to Hashem** for peace. Esav's coming turned from hate to love, for that one day. His bite turned into a kiss.
- 54) When Yaakov got to Shechem he showed appreciation and helped its economy. He minted a coin, had stores opened and he sent gifts to the town leaders. We must show appreciation to the country that hosts us in our exile.

This week's Shabbat program has been dedicated in honor of **Morris Mizrahi** by his father **Max** in recognition of his sincere effort in Torah!
Tizku L'Mitzvot!