

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 15

Toldos, Sicha 4

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

In Parshas Toldos we read how Yitzchak Avinu blessed
Yaakov his son “V’yitein Lecha” – all the very best
Yitzchak at the time was old and we are taught that he
Had weak eyes for they were dimmed, and he could not see

Rashi gives three explanations why this came to be
And the Rebbe tells us in this sicha why the need for three
The first is that Yitzchak was hurt by the smoke so intense
Of Esav’s idol-worshiping wives when they burned their incense

The second is that angels’ tears fell into Yitzchak’s eyes
When he was at the Akeida and the angels saw and cried
The third is that Yitzchak wished to bless his son Esav the red head
And Hashem made him go blind so that he bless Yaakov instead

The Rebbe says if Rashi brings more than one explanation
It must be that the first one has imperfect information
Let’s go see why Rashi brings two reasons then another
And learn how each pshat Rashi says is better than the other

The Torah says that Esav married bad wives who were
Source of terrible heartache to Esav’s father and mother
If then their smoke made Yitzchak blind it all makes perfect sense
And this explanation fits well with the sequence of events

But why would Yaakov's vision go and Rivkah's would not?
 So Rashi brings another reason, he brings a second pshat
 Yaakov's sight was dimmed when holy tears fell in his eyes
 As the angels cried during the Akeida as they watched from the skies

But why to know why he went blind would we be made to look
 To a Midrash and not just learn from the words of the pasuk?
 So Rashi says the third reason that Yitzchak lost his sight
 So that Yaakov would get the bracha and everything would be right

We see how each explanation makes us go look for another
 But still each has a strength that makes it better than the other
 The first one about Esav's wives seems to lead the way
 Because it's based on what the pesukim here actually say

The second one about the tears we can appreciate
 'cuz the blindness came about thru the Akeida – something great
 The third answer says Yitzchak went blind only in his old age
 And not years in advance as the first two answers say

We have now learned a Rashi and we grasped it well
 We see how Rashi works and what each Rashi word does tell
 But from this Rashi we can also learn a giant teaching
 A lesson to us how to live that's crucial and far-reaching

Rashi tells us how and when Yitzchak lost his sight
 But why must he go blind at all? It would seem more right
 That Hashem would just tell Yitzchak that Esav behaves no good
 And Yitzchak could bless Yaakov while his eyes work as they should

But here we are taught a tremendous lesson by the One Above
 He would get Yaakov the bracha but not speak badly of Esav
 How much more so must we all do right and take great care
 And not speak badly of our fellow Jews both far a near
