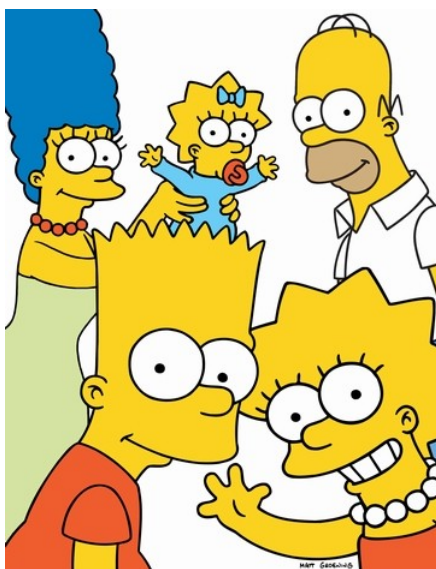


## Honouring Parents



Aims:

- To learn about Yaakov's relationship with his parents.
- To learn about Eisav's relationship with his parents.
- To assess the extent to which we honour our parents!



People of the choveret,

Hope everything is going well at sviva! It sounds like there have been high numbers generally at sviva so keep it up! But we need more people at machane – so start working on it! The most important recruitment for machane comes at sviva – get your chanichim signed up and you can lift the Machane Cup!

Good luck to the svivot doing Family Friday Nights and other tochniot!

Michael



## Machane League table

Thursday, 12 November 2009 00:00 UK

1. Borehamwood & Elstree
2. Salford
- =3. Bushey
- =3. Norrice Lea

*So far, only 23 out of 30 svivot have chanichim signed up to machane. Also, keep pushing because there are a group of svivot hot on the heels of Bushey and Norrice Lea!*



## Yitzchak, Rivka, Yaakov and Eisav: the perfect family?

We are accustomed to think of Eisav as the 'baddie' and Yaakov as the 'goodie' – and if you read through their stories in Sefer Bereshit, there is a lot of truth in this. However there is one area in which Eisav does receive praise, and that is with regard to what later became the fifth of the 'Ten Commandments': Honour thy father and mother.

Midrash Devarim  
Rabba 1:14

Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel declared that no-one was as careful in the mitzvah of Kibud Av as he was but he later changed his mind and said that Eisav was more respectful than him. Rabban Shimon served his father while he was wearing ordinary clothes and would put on more elegant clothing when he went out to market. Eisav, on the other hand, would put on his best finery when he served his father Yitzchak.



Let's first examine the relationship of Eisav to his parents in order to learn more about the mitzvah of 'כיבוד אב ואם', honouring one's father and mother.

## Eisav & His parents

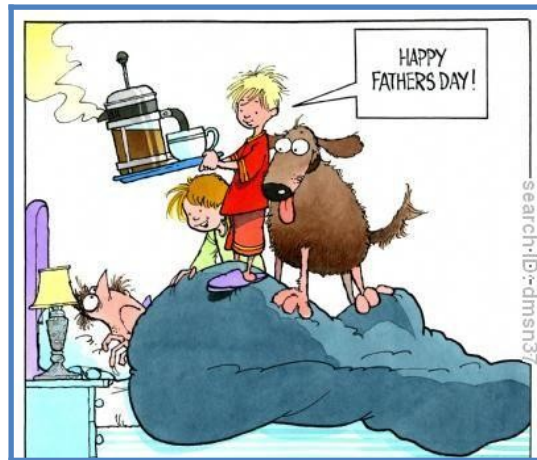
- ⊗ **Instant Response:** When Yitzchak calls Eisav, he immediately answers 'הנני', meaning 'here I am'
- ⊗ **Does what he's told:** When Yitzchak tells him to fetch him some food, he does.
- ⊗ **Dress to impress:** When Rivka tells Yaakov to dress up as Eisav, she tells him to wear Eisav's nicest clothes – surely this hints that Eisav dressed nicely to serve his dad.
- ⊗ **At least he waited:** Planning to kill your brother is admittedly a bad thing to do – but he did say he would wait till Yitzchak died before doing it.
- ⊗ **Marries into the right family:** Eisav not only does what he's told but also infers what he's supposed to do without a direct command, as we see in the last two verses in this week's parasha...

*And Eisav saw that the daughters of Canaan were bad in the eyes of Yitzchak his father. And Eisav went to Yishmael and took Machalat, the daughter of Yishmael, Avraham's son, the sister of Nevayot, in addition to his wives, as a wife for himself. (Bereshit 28:8-9).*



So far, so good. Eisav seems like a pretty good guy – at least in this one area. *But there's something missing.*

If you look again at Eisav's story, you will notice that he only seems to honour his father. We know this because:



So, it seems that Eisav had a fantastic relationship with his dad but his ignorance of his mum seems to let him down a bit. Contrast this to Yaakov, who seems to have respected and got along with both.

We know this because...

- ⊗ Yaakov listened to his mother and 'stole' Eisav's bracha.
- ⊗ Yaakov listened to his father and mother and went to Paddan Aram (see above verse).
- ⊗ He didn't want to mock his father when Rivka told him to dress up as Eisav.

BUT there is another side to the story. One reason given for Yaakov's trauma of losing his favoured son, Yosef, for fourteen years was a punishment for not honouring his parents – this is specifically referring to the time Yaakov was away from home (see next week's parasha, Vayetze). Although he was sent away, he overstayed his time in Paddan Aram by fourteen years – which he was later punished for.

## *Points* TO *Ponder*

- ✚ Does Eisav's conduct tally with the Torah's other stories about him?
- ✚ Who do you think fulfilled the mitzvah more: Yaakov or Eisav?
- ✚ Why is it important to honour your parents equally?

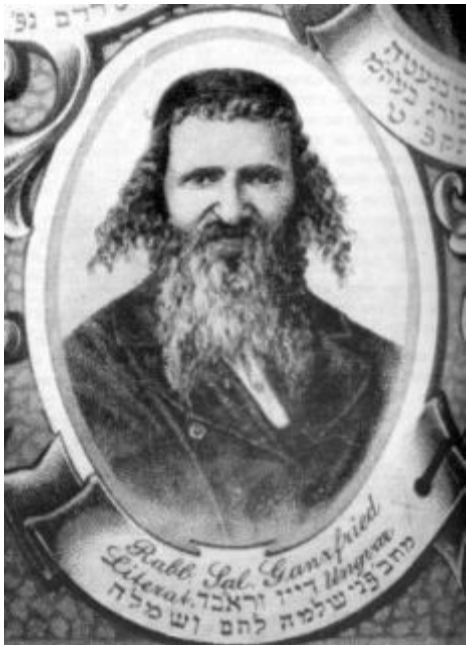




## Halacha-nanananana

*Sometimes, when we learn halacha (generally translated as Jewish law), we tend to learn the laws of 'doing religious things', i.e. things that we wouldn't do if we hadn't heard of the Torah – for example Shabbat, tefilla and kashrut. But how often do we take time and examine areas in our life which do come more naturally, like our relationship with others, honesty and morals – and look at what halacha has to say about them?*

We did a little last week learning about business ethics, but let's continue and learn some selected halachot of the mitzvah of *Kibud Horim*, honouring parents. The source is from the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch (the shortened version of the Code of Jewish Law, written by Rav Shlomo Ganzfried in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century).



**R' Shlomo Ganzfried,**  
1804-1886

- Honouring parents is considered like honouring Hashem.
- One should not sit in your father's place or contradict him.
- Never wake them up unnecessarily.
- Stand up in their honour.
- Never criticise them.
- If a parent tells you to break Halacha, this is the one time you don't have to listen to them.
- Learning Torah is a form of honouring parents as they get 'nachas' from you!

Did you know that the word 'nachas' comes from the word נחת, which means 'satisfaction' or 'gratification'.

Honouring one's father and mother is something that can be extremely challenging, especially since it is constant – as mitzvot go, it's easier to fulfil mitzvot with a set end time, like Shabbat, Megilla or Shofar – but here it's all the time.

However the Torah gives us one amazing promise for those who do make an effort to do this mitzvah:

“Honour your father and your mother in order that your days should be lengthened in the land which Hashem your G-d is giving you.” *Shemot 20:12 (part of the 'Ten Commandments')*

**There are 2 major questions that arise from this...**



## Long Life

This is one of two mitzvot given in the Torah where the reward is specifically mentioned (the other is Shiluach haKen - shooining away the mother-bird) - and the reward for both is long life. Some opinions believe that this refers to long life in this world and some say that it refers to Olam Haba, the world to come, as well. Whichever it is, the general principle here is that if you appreciate the people who literally gave you life, you deserve to live longer.

## Eretz Yisrael

The Netziv has a fantastic explanation for what honouring parents has to do with the Land of Israel. We know from other places that although it's not ideal, we still keep mitzvot outside Israel. Doing mitzvot such as Tefillin, Succah etc *can* be done in Chutz la'Aretz but *should* be performed in Israel if you want to fulfil it in the best way possible. However you may think that it's only mitzvot between man and Hashem that work better in the land - mitzvot between man and his fellow are surely universal and have no specific connection to a place? The Netziv says that the Torah's promise of living in the land with regard to honouring parents is a clear statement that this is not the case and that every mitzvah is ideally practised in Israel.

### Final Thought

This week we can really get to grips with this important mitzvah. Remember to show how the same struggles we go through were



already apparent in the Isaacs family (that Yitzchak, Rivka et al) and how these parshiot are all about us learning how to act in a righteous and upright way. Enjoy!



- **Do you honour your parents?** This is a version of the popular BA game 'Do you love your neighbour'. In our game, everyone in the room chooses two 'parents' (note: it doesn't matter if one person's 'parent' has chosen them as a 'parent' – we're not creating a family tree!). There is a person in the middle without a chair who asks X 'Do you honour your parents?' If they say yes, they stand up (as one should do) and their two parents and the questioner fight it out for the seats. If they say no, X is asked 'So, who do you honour?' And he says 'everyone', which creates a situation known as 'fruit basket' i.e. everyone changes place.
- **Happy Families:** the card game.
- **Honour Board:** Give chanichim a sample of people/positions and ask them to what extent would you honour them and how? For instance: parents, Rabbi, Prime Minister, Queen, teacher, headmaster, grandparents etc
- **Grab the Keys:** One person is blindfolded and sits on a chair with some keys underneath. You then create lots of obstacles surrounding the keys. The chanichim's challenge is to grab the keys without being pointed at by the keyholder so must therefore be very quiet when going through the obstacles. This



game reminds us of Yaakov pretending to be Eisav and getting Yitzchak's bracha without being noticed (Yitzchak was blind).

## ***Hadracha Tip of the Week***

*Clearly explain a game before playing it. Never assume that because 9/10 people know how to play, the other person will just join in. Even asking the question 'you all know how this game works, right?' can be a bad idea depending on the group – it's important never to alienate chanichim.*



## **And finally...**



The position of Chinuch Worker was started in 1981-82, meaning that this is the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the position. Previous to that, the educational side of BA was run by a Chinuch Va'ad (committee) of Bogrim. The first Chinuch Worker was Moti Farber.

**ATTENTION! There is a big online petition to ask the Prime Minister to ensure the safe release of MIA Gilad Shalit – urge people to sign up at**

***<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/GSchalit/>***



## Sviva of the Week: Cheadle

**Roshim:** Sara Cohen & Michael Blank

**Madrachim:** Rebecca Stonefield & Gabbi Cohen.



### *Cheadle Shabbat Ha'Irgun Tochnit 5769*

## Facts about Cheadle

- The village of Cheadle has been occupied since prehistoric times!
- Despite being known as Cheadle BA the sviva is actually situated in Gatley.
- Cheadle is not only to be found in the Manchester area - there is also one near the location site of Winter Machane.
- 20% of the staff in the London Bayit is from Cheadle - Richard Hyman, Accounts Manager, and of course, Zak Jeffay, the Mazkir. And not forgetting Deborah Blank from the Hanhalla...

