

Rabbi Kacev

For Shabbat 29 NOV. 2208

PARSHAT TOLDOT

Rashi (Breishit 21:7) tells us of a malicious rumour, gossip that was spread at the time that Yitzhak was born. Surely Sarah couldn't have a child in her old age and neither could this child be Avrahams. They must have picked up an abandoned child and adopted it. Without going into the fabrication, we can simply ask why the need for the Torah to refer to these rumours?

In this weeks Parsha we see a lot of antagonism for Yitzchak. The Pelishtim are jealous of him and even go as far as to block the wells that Avraham dug. This is a crazy move, to block wells of beneficial value in the time of a drought is in fact suicidal!

It is interesting to note how Avraham was so much respected in his life time. He truly received the blessing of a great name. Rav Soloveitchik points out how people did not object to Avraham's way of life, his world outlook and his moral code. In fact people were in awe of this amazing individual moving around the land of Israel. We realize in this weeks Parsha that this is only while he has no spiritual heir to continue the tradition. Once Isaac is born, however, things change. Their attitude to Avraham changes. These are not just the old mans ideals, these ideas are dynamic and are being continued by an heir.

They resented that prospect and thus from the point of his birth, he is ridiculed. Avraham's wells must be blocked at all cost, his teachings cast aside. It is exactly that, a dynamic Judaism that will attract the attention of others, some will be attracted to it and come learn while others will try and stop it at all costs.

Shabbat Shalom

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