

Chapter 27

1It came to pass when Isaac was old, and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called Esau his elder son, and he said to him, "My son," and he said to him, "Here I am." **2**And he said, "Behold now, I have grown old; I do not know the day of my death. **3**So, now, sharpen your implements, your sword [and take] your bow, and go forth to the field, and hunt game for me. **4**And make for me tasty foods as I like, and bring them to me, and I will eat, in order that my soul will bless you before I die."

5But Rebecca overheard when Isaac spoke to Esau his son, and Esau went to the field to hunt game, to bring [it]. **6**And Rebecca said to Jacob her son, saying, "Behold I have heard your father speaking to Esau your brother, saying, **7**'Bring me game and make me tasty foods, and I will eat, and I will bless you before the Lord before my death.'**8**And now my son, hearken to my voice, to what I am commanding you. **9**Go now to the flock, and take for me from there two choice kids, and I will make them tasty foods for your father, as he likes. **10**And you shall bring [them] to your father that he may eat, in order that he bless you before his death." **11**And Jacob said to Rebecca his mother, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, whereas I am a smooth man. **12**Perhaps my father will touch me, and I will appear to him as a deceiver, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing." **13**And his mother said to him, "On me is your curse, my son. Only hearken to my voice and go, take [them] for me." **14**So he went, and he took, and he brought [them] to his mother, and his mother made tasty foods, as his father liked. **15**And Rebecca took the costly garments of Esau, her elder son, which were with her in the house, and she dressed Jacob, her younger son. **16**And the hides of the kids she put on his hands and on the smoothness of his neck. **17**And she gave the tasty foods and the bread that she had made, into the hand of Jacob her son. **18**And he came to his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" **19**And Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you have spoken to me. Please rise, sit down and eat of my game, so that your soul will bless me." **20**And Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found [it] so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the Lord your God prepared it before me." **21**And Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come closer, so that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." **22**So Jacob drew near to Isaac his father, and he felt him, and he said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau."**23**And he did not recognize him because his hands were hairy like the hands of his brother Esau, and he blessed him. **24**And he said, "Are you [indeed] my son Esau?" And he said, "I am." **25**And he said, "Serve [it] to me that I may eat of the game of my son, so that my soul will bless you." And he served him, and he ate, and he brought him wine, and he drank. **26**And his father Isaac said to him, "Please come closer and kiss me, my son." **27**And he came closer, and he kissed him, and he smelled the fragrance of his garments, and he blessed him, and he said, "Behold, the fragrance of my son is like the fragrance of a field, which the Lord has blessed! **28**And may the Lord give you

of the dew of the heavens and [of] the fatness of the earth and an abundance of grain and wine. **29**Nations shall serve you and kingdoms shall bow down to you; you shall be a master over your brothers, and your mother's sons shall bow down to you. Those who curse you shall be cursed, and those who bless you shall be blessed." **30**And it came to pass, when Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and it came to pass Jacob had just left his father Isaac's presence, that his brother Esau came from his hunt. **31**And he too had made tasty foods, and he brought [them] to his father, and he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of the game of his son, so that your soul will bless me. " **32**And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." **33**And Isaac shuddered a great shudder, and he said, "Who then is the one who hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate of everything while you had not yet come, and I blessed him? He, too, shall be blessed." **34**When Esau heard his father's words, he cried out a great and bitter cry, and he said to his father, "Bless me too, O my father!" **35**And he said, "Your brother came with cunning and took your blessing." **36**And he said, "Is it for this reason that he was named Jacob? For he has deceived me twice; he took my birthright, and behold, now he has taken my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" **37**And Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I made him a master over you, and I gave him all his brothers as servants, and I have sustained him with corn and wine; so for you then, what shall I do, my son?" **38**And Esau said to his father, "Have you [but] one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father." And Esau raised his voice and wept. **39**And his father Isaac answered and said to him, "Behold, your dwelling place shall be the fat places of the earth and of the dew of the heaven from above. **40**And you shall live by your sword, and you shall serve your brother, and it will be, when you grieve, that you will break his yoke off your neck." **41**And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing that his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "Let the days of mourning for my father draw near, I will then kill my brother Jacob." **42**And Rebecca was told of the words of Esau, her elder son, and she sent and called Jacob, her younger son, and she said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau regrets [his relationship] to you [and wishes] to kill you. **43**And now, my son, hearken to my voice, and arise, flee to my brother Laban, to Haran. **44**And you shall dwell with him for a few days until your brother's wrath has subsided. **45**Until your brother's rage subsides from you, and he forgets what you did to him, and I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of both of you on one day?" **46**And Rebecca said to Isaac, "I am disgusted with my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth like these, from the daughters of the land, of what use is life to me?"

We must remember that the Bible starts from the assumption that all human beings are flawed in one way or another by the very nature of things and that its purpose is not to demonstrate the flawed character of individuals but to suggest some lessons about the problems by choosing among human weaknesses by focusing on human strengths, to be prudent in our choices yet to maintain our moral vision.

Chapter 28

1And Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and he commanded him and said to him, "You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. **2**Arise, go to Padan aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and take yourself from there a wife of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. **3**And may the Almighty God bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and you shall become an assembly of peoples. **4**And may He give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your seed with you, that you may inherit the land of your sojourning, which God gave to Abraham." **5**And Isaac sent Jacob, and he went to Padan aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebecca, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

6And Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan aram, to take himself a wife from there, and that when he blessed him, he commanded him, saying, "You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan." **7**And Jacob listened to his father and his mother, and he went to Padan aram. **8**And Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan were displeasing to his father Isaac. **9**So Esau went to Ishmael, and he took Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael, the son of Abraham, the sister of Nebaioth, in addition to his other wives as a wife.

10And Jacob left Beer sheba, and he went to Haran. **11**And he arrived at the place and lodged there because the sun had set, and he took some of the stones of the place and placed [them] at his head, and he lay down in that place. **12**And he dreamed, and behold! a ladder set up on the ground and its top reached to heaven; and behold, angels of God were ascending and descending upon it. **13**And behold, the Lord was standing over him, and He said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac; the land upon which you are lying to you I will give it and to your seed. **14**And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shall gain strength westward and eastward and northward and southward; and through you shall be blessed all the families of the earth and through your seed. **15**And behold, I am with you, and I will guard you wherever you go, and I will restore you to this land, for I will not forsake you until I have done what I have spoken concerning you." **16**And Jacob awakened from his sleep, and he said, "Indeed, the Lord is in this place, and I did not know [it]." **17**And he was frightened, and he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." **18**And Jacob arose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had placed at his head, and he set it up as a monument, and he poured oil on top of it. **19**And he named the place Beth El, but Luz was originally the name of the city. **20**And Jacob uttered a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and He will guard me on this way, upon which I am going, and He will give me bread to eat and a garment to wear; **21**And if I return in peace to my father's house, and the Lord will be my God; **22**Then this stone, which I have placed as a monument, shall be a house of God, and everything that You give me, I will surely tithe to You.