

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

The Lies of Leadership | Erica Brown | November 18, 2021



Nicolas-Guy Brenet, "Rebecca Presents Jacob to Isaac" (1768) Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Genesis 27:8-19

ועתה בני שמע בקלי לאשר אני מצנה אתך:

לד-נא אל-הצאן וקח-לי משם שני גְּדֵי עֵזִים טְבִיִּים וְאֶעֱשֶׂה אִתָּם מְטַעְמִים לְאָבִיךָ כְּאִשְׁרֵךְ אָהָב:

והבאת לאביך ואכל בעבר אשר יברכה לפני מותו:

ויאמר יעקב אל-רבקה אמו הן עשו אחי איש שער ואנכי איש תלך:

אולי ימשני אבי והגיתני בעיניו כמתעתע והבאתי עלי קללה ולא ברכה:

ותאמר לו אמו עלי קללתה בני אף שמע בקלי וגד קח-לי:



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וּלְלֶדֶת נִיקָח וַיָּבֵא לְאִמּוֹ וַתַּעַשׂ אִמּוֹ מִטְעָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר אָהֵב אָבִיו:

וַתִּקַּח רֵבֶקָה אֶת־בְּגָדֵי עֵשָׂו הַגְּדֹל־הַחֲמֹדֹת אֲשֶׁר אָהָה בְּבֵית וַתַּלְבֵּשׂ אֶת־יַעֲקֹב בְּגַת הַקָּטָן:

וְאֵת עֹרֹת גְּדֵי הָעֵזִים הִלְבִּישָׁה עַל־גְּיוֹ וְעַל חִלְקֵת צִנּוּאָרָיו:

וַתִּתֵּן אֶת־הַמִּטְעָמִים וְאֶת־הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשְׂתָה בְּיַד יַעֲקֹב בְּגַת:

וַיָּבֵא אֶל־אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי מִי אַתָּה בְּנִי:

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אָבִיו אֲנֹכִי עֵשָׂו בְּכֻדָּה עָשִׂיתִי כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלַי קוּם־נָא שָׁכֵחַ וְאָכְלָה מִצֵּי־לֵי בַעֲבוּר תִּבְרַכְנִי נְפֹשָׁה:

Now, my son, listen carefully as I instruct you. Go to the flock and fetch me two choice kids, and I will make of them a dish for your father, such as he likes. Then take it to your father to eat, in order that he may bless you before he dies.” Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, “But my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am smooth-skinned. If my father touches me, I shall appear to him as a trickster and bring upon myself a curse, not a blessing.” But his mother said to him, “Your curse, my son, be upon me! Just do as I say and go fetch them for me.” He got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared a dish such as his father liked. Rebekah then took the best clothes of her older son Esau, which were there in the house, and had her younger son Jacob put them on; and she covered his hands and the hairless part of his neck with the skins of the kids. Then she put in the hands of her son Jacob the dish and the bread that she had prepared. He went to his father and said, “Father.” And he said, “Yes, which of my sons are you?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau, your first-born; I have done as you told me. Pray sit up and eat of my game, that you may give me your innermost blessing.

## Reflective Question

Name a lie you could have told that would have made your life easier, but you didn't.

## Leadership Challenge

Identify a lie, untruth, fake news, or an act of deception – willful or not – that you must manage in your leadership right now. What are you going to do about it?

