חסידות

From the Chassidic Courts

BERDITCHEV · CHAYEI SARA, KEDUSHAT LEVI

What made Yitzchok's love for Rivkah true love

Kedushat Levi

Yitzchok's love for Rivkah was not rooted in physical attraction or self-gratification, but in recognizing her as a true partner enabling him to serve the Creator more fully. True love between husband and wife is measured by how much each enables the other to fulfill the Divine will, not by how one's own desires are satisfied. AI SUMMARY

Genesis 24,67. "Yitzchok brought Rivkah into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he wed her and she became his wife and he loved her." We need to examine what the Torah meant by Yitzchok loving Rivkah that is so extraordinary that it has to be spelled out here. A husband can love his wife on two different levels. He may love her, i.e. be physically attracted to her as she enables him to satisfy his biological urges. If this is his "love," it is not love at all, but is merely love of his self. There are husbands who do not love their wives because they are instruments of fulfilling their physical desires, but because their wives enable them to perform their Creator's will better and more profoundly. This is the true meaning of "someone loving his wife." The Torah testifies that Yitzchok's love for Rivkah was of the latter category.

Translation: Kedushat Levi translated by Rb. Eliyahu Munk