חסידות

From the Chassidic Courts

RADOMSK · TOLDOT, TIFERET SHLOMO

Why Yitzchak's greatness came from his father, not himself

Tiferet Shlomo

Yitzchak's greatness lay in his conviction that he was worthy of nothing on his own, only as the son of Avraham, since all the tzaddikim rely on the merit of the forefathers to draw holiness down upon themselves. The author of Tiferet Shlomo supports this with the Akeidah, where Yitzchak's words "my father" express that all his service comes from his father's power, and with the phrase "Avraham begot Yitzchak," which he compares to the Ark that carries those who carry it, because the chesed of Avraham was aroused in him. AI SUMMARY

Let us return to the explanation of the verse, "These are the generations of Yitzchak, son of Avraham," etc. The main source of Yitzchak's strength was that all his days he thought he was not worthy of anything, except that he was the son of Avraham. For this is the way of all tzaddikim (the righteous): their entire reliance is on the merit of the forefathers, to draw their holiness upon themselves. This is the meaning of what is said in the passage of the Akeidah (the Binding): "And Yitzchak said to Avraham his father, and he said, 'My father.'" That is, all my service comes from the power of my father. His own service was not considered significant in his eyes, only the merit he had from his father. And this is why the verse concludes, "Avraham begot Yitzchak," like "the Ark carries those who carry it," because the aspect of the chesed (lovingkindness) of Avraham was aroused, as above.

Translation: translated by AI (anthropic/claude-sonnet-5.5)