

# Parashat Va-Yishlach: Facing Forward

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## Bereishit 25

(כה) וַיֵּצֵא הָרִאשׁוֹן... וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ עֵשָׂו: (כו) וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יָצָא אָחִיו וַיִּדּוּ אֶחְזֹת בְּעֵקֶב עֵשָׂו וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב...

The first came out... they called him Esav... Afterwards, his brother came out, with his hand grasping the heel of Esau; they called him Jacob.

(לב) וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו הֲנֵה אֲנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ לָמוּת וְלָמָּה־זֶּה לִּי בְכֹרָה: (לג) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב הַשְּׁבָעָה לִּי כִּי־אִם וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ וַיִּמְכֹּר אֶת־בְּכֹרְתוֹ לְיַעֲקֹב:

Esau said, "I am about to die; what need do I have of the birthright? Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

## Bereishit 27

(יח) וַיָּבֹא אֶל־אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִי מִי אַתָּה בְּנִי: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אָבִיו אֲנֹכִי עֵשָׂו בְּכֹרְךָ...

He came to his father... He said, "Who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your first born."

## Bereishit 27

וַיֹּאמֶר הֲכִי קָרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וַיַּעֲקֹבֵנִי זֶה פַעַמִּים אֶת־בְּכֹרְתִי לָקַח וְהִנֵּה עַתָּה לָקַח בְּרַכְתִּי

He said, "Is that why he is called Jacob: he has now sneaked against/supplanted me these two times. He has taken my birthright and now he has taken my blessing..."

## Bereishit 32-33, "guiding words"

עבר, אחר, פנים, מחנה, ברכה

Pass/cross over; after/late; before/face; camp; blessing

## Bereishit 32

(כה) וַיִּתֵּר יַעֲקֹב לְבַדּוֹ וַיֵּאָבֶק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר: (כו) וַיֵּרָא כִּי לֹא יָכַל לוֹ וַיִּגַע בְּכַף־יָרְכוֹ וַתִּקַּע כַּף־יָרְךָ יַעֲקֹב בְּהֶאָבֶקוֹ עִמּוֹ: (כז) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלַחְנִי כִּי עָלָה הַשָּׁחַר וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁלְּחֶךָ כִּי אִם־בְּרַכְתָּנִי: (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מִה־שִּׁמְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב: (כט) וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יַעֲקֹב יֹאמַר עוֹד שִׁמְךָ כִּי אִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־שָׁרִיתָ עִם־אֱלֹהִים וְעִם־אָנָּשִׁים וַתִּוְכַל: (ל) וַיִּשְׁאַל יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הַגִּידָה־נָּא שִׁמְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר לָמָּה זֶה תִּשְׁאַל לְשִׁמִּי וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ שֵׁם: (לא) וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם פְּנִיאֵל כִּי־רָאִיתִי אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים אֶל־פָּנִים וַתִּנְצַל נַפְשִׁי: (לב) וַיִּזְרַח־לוֹ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ כַּאֲשֶׁר עָבַר אֶת־פְּנּוּאֵל וְהוּא צֹלַע עַל־יָרְכוֹ:

Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he wrenched Jacob's hip at its socket, so that the socket of his hip was strained as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he answered, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." Said the other, "What is your name?" He replied, "Jacob." Said he, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with beings divine and human and you have been enabled (prevailed)" ... So Jacob named the place Peniel, meaning, "I have seen a divine being face to face, and my life has been preserved." The sun rose upon his as he passed Penuel, limping on his hip...