

Each and every Jew is obligated to say, “When will my deeds reach the level of my forefathers, Avraham, Yitzchok and Yaakov.” (*Tanna D’Bei Eliyahu Rabah* Chap. 25)

During these weeks, when we read about the infinite greatness of the Avos who were willing to sacrifice their lives and those of their children’s for Hashem’s sake, it is all the more so hard to imagine how one can even ask the above question. However, perhaps the Torah’s description of Yaakov Avinu can give us a lead as to how we can attempt to emulate them.

The Torah’s description of Yaakov’s greatness is as an “Ish Tam”. An “Ish Tam” is one who understands that he can’t circumvent Hashem’s will in any which way. Rather, he trusts solely in Hashem to take care of all his needs. The *seforim* write that because of Yaakov’s special attribute of being a “Tam” it is he who’s likeness is engraved into the *kisei hakavod* – Hashem’s holy throne. They explain that trust in Hashem automatically correlates to the highest level of closeness to Him, as the passuk says, “You must be תמים - wholehearted - *with* Hashem your G-d,” i.e. by being “tamim” you necessarily attain the highest level of being *with* Hashem.

True, the infinite greatness of our Avos seems completely out of our reach. However, we see their greatest praise was simply trusting Hashem, and that is something we can all attain on our own level by simply internalizing the facts we know, how everything is in Hashem’s hands, into our everyday emotions.

*Established By:*



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