

## **“And he (Eisav) sold his birthright to Yaakov.” (25:33)**

One may wonder how Yaakov convinced Eisav to sell his birthright for a bowl of red lentils. Why would this not be considered a “*mekach ta’us*, erroneous sale?” Certainly, the birthright is worth much more than a bowl of lentils. *Horav Chaim Shmuelevitz, z.l.*, sums it up very simply. Eisav did not value the spiritual significance of the birthright. It meant nothing to him. Accordingly, Hashem ascribed the same value to the *bechorah*, birthright, as did Eisav. Thus, the sale was valid, because in Eisav’s mind there was no distinction between the birthright and the lentils.

*Horav Yitzchak Zilberstein, Shlita*, feels that the same idea applies to each one of us. For example, consider an individual who is sitting in the *bais ha’medrash* studying *Torah* and takes a break during his study period to go to the bank to take care of a returned check. The loss that he would incur had he not gone now is about ten dollars. He has just indicated that his *Torah* study is not worth more than ten-dollars, because he is willing to leave in the middle of learning to address a ten-dollar problem. On the other hand, one who overcomes various obstacles and challenges to study *Torah* will be rewarded by Hashem in kind.