cites Onkelos [who apparently perceives the word as implying: those garments which Esau scrupulously kept unsullied from hunting]. In an alternative translation, Rashi identifies these garments as the ones which Esau, יִשְׁנָה, coveted, from the famous hunter Nimrod [see footnote to 25:27].

These were the precious garments which Esau [renowned for his great filial devotion] would wear while he waited upon his father (Rashi).

— He would wear these glorious garments while at leisure and while in the company of important personages. He kept them in fragrant grasses so they had a pleasant odor. This is why his fragrance was easily recognizable [see v. 27], and Rebecca chose them for that very reason (Radak).

Which were with her in the house.

This provides an insight into Esau's married life. He left his best treasures in his mother's keeping because he knew his wives' ways and did not entirely trust them (Rashi; see Hirsch).

[According to Rashbam's interpretation (see above) they were presumably kept out of convenience since those were the garments Esau wore when he served his father. Thus, they would ready whenever Isaac summoned him. This follows the Midrashic understanding also.]

— And [she] cloth Jacob.

Jacob's reluctance is evide With filial devotion he allowed mother to dress him; he did not wish to put them on himself (HaKs HaKaballah).

— Her younger son.

As Hirsch notes in v. 11, it was his mother that she demanded, a son, her son that he obeyed.

That the narrative describes Esau as the older and Jacob as the younger is to the credit of Rebecca. Although a mother would normally recognize that the blessing belonged to the firstborn, she w

1. Esau's filial devotion was proverbial among the Rabbis.

Rebecca Stimson Cawdell said, "I attended to the needs of my father all my life but I never did for him even a hundredth of what Esau did for his father. When I would care for father, I would do so in soiled garments so as not to dirty my good clothing; but when I was outside I would put on clean ones. But when Esau catered to his father he put on his precious garments, for he would say, 'Nothing but royal robes befits my father's honor' (Midrash). [See Ozer's text.]

GENESIS/תֵּפֶשֶׁת [11]