

Rivkah and Galadriel's Mirror: Parashat Toldot

Source Sheet by Ruth Shane

Last week Avraham's wife Sarah died. She was his Princess (שרה), his General, his Commander. She was also Yitzchak's mama who loved him fiercely and did not like his brother Yishmael. Her absence leaves a hole in the souls of both men. Her absence creates a vacuum in the family and in the saga of Genesis. Last week we saw a girl step into and fill that void for both Yitzchak and Avraham. Now we want to know more about this Rivkah.

בראשית כ"ד:ט"ז

(טז) וְהַנַּעֲרָ טַבַּת מְרֹאֶה מְאֹד בְּתוּלָה וְאִישׁ לֹא יָדָעָה וַתֵּרֶד הָעֵינָה וַתִּמְלֵא כֶּדֶה וַתַּעַל:

Genesis 24:16

(16) The maiden was very beautiful—[and] a virgin, no man having known her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up.

בראשית י"ב:י"א

(יא) וַיְהִי כִּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לְבֹא מִצְרַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ הִנֵּה־נָא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אִשָּׁה יִפְתֹּחַ־מְרֹאֶה אָתָּה:

Genesis 12:11

(11) As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are.

בראשית כ"ט:י"ז

(יז) וְעֵינֶי לֵאָה רַכּוֹת וְרַחֵל הָיְתָה יִפְתָּת־תָּאֵר וַיִּפֹּת מִרְאָה:

Genesis 29:17

(17) Leah had weak eyes; Rachel was shapely and beautiful.

בראשית כ"ד:ס"ז-כ"ה:ב'

(סז) וַיָּבֵאָהּ יִצְחָק הָאֵלֶּלֶה שָׂרָה אִמּוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־רִבְקָה וַתְּהִי־לּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּאָהֲבָהּ וַיִּנָּחֶם יִצְחָק אַחֲרֵי אִמּוֹ: {פ'} (א) וַיֵּסֶף אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אִשָּׁה וַשְׁמָהּ קִטּוּרָה: (ב) וַתֵּלֶד לוֹ אֶת־זִמְרָן וְאֶת־יִקְשָׁן וְאֶת־מִדְיָן וְאֶת־שׁוּבָק וְאֶת־שׁוּחַ:

Genesis 24:67-25:2

(67) Isaac then brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he took Rebekah as his wife. Isaac loved her, and thus found comfort after his mother's death. (1) Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. (2) She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

בראשית י"ב:א'

(א) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לֵךְ־לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ־ךָ וּמִמּוֹלֶדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֹרְאָךְ:

Genesis 12:1

(1) יהוה said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you.

בראשית כ"ד:נ"ח

(נח) וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְרִבְקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶיהָ הֲתֵלְכִי עִם־הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וְתֹאמַר
אֵלָיו:

Genesis 24:58

(58) They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will."

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ב

(כב) וַיִּתְרָצְצוּ הַבָּנִים בְּקִרְבָּהּ וְתֹאמַר אִם־כֵּן לָמָּה זֶה אֲנֹכִי וְתֵלֶךְ
לְדֹרֶשׁ אֶת־יְהוָה:

Genesis 25:22

(22) But the children struggled in her womb, and she said, "If so, why do I exist?" She went to inquire of יהוה,

בראשית כ"א:י"ז

(יז) וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנָּעֹר וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאָךְ אֱלֹהִים | אֶל־הָגָר
מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַה־לָּךְ הָגָר אֶל־תִּירָאִי כִּי־שָׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל־קוֹל
הַנָּעֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר הוּא־שָׁם:

Genesis 21:17

(17) God heard the cry of the boy, and a messenger of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is.

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ג

(כג) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לָהּ
שָׁנִי (גִּיִּים) [גוֹיִם] בְּבִטְנִיךְ

וּשְׁנֵי לְאֻמִּים מִמֶּעֶיךָ יִפְרְדּוּ
וְלֹאִם מְלֹאִם יֵאָמֵץ
וְרַב יַעֲבֹד צָעִיר:

Genesis 25:23

(23) and יהוה answered her,
“Two nations are in your womb,
Two separate peoples shall issue from your body;
One people shall be mightier than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger.”

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ד-כ"ז

(כד) וַיִּמָּלְאוּ יִמֶיהָ לֵלֶדֶת וְהִנֵּה תוֹמָם בְּבֶטֶןָהּ: (כה) וַיֵּצֵא הָרֹאשׁוֹן
אֲדָמוּנִי כָּלּוֹ כְּאַדְמַת שַׁעַר וַיִּקְרְאוּ שְׁמוֹ עֵשָׂו: (כו) וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יָצָא אָחִיו
וַיְדֹ אֶחָזֶת בְּעֵקֶב עֵשָׂו וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וַיִּצְחָק בֶּן־שָׁשִׁים שָׁנָה בְּלֶדֶת
אֹתָם: (כז) וַיִּגְדְּלוּ הַנְּעָרִים וַיְהִי עֵשָׂו אִישׁ יָדָע צֹד אִישׁ שֹׁדָה וַיַּעֲקֹב
אִישׁ תָּם יֹשֵׁב אֹהֲלִים:

Genesis 25:24-27

(24) When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
(25) The first one emerged red, like a hairy mantle all over; so they named him Esau. (26) Then his brother emerged, holding on to the heel of Esau; so they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born. (27) When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the outdoors; but Jacob became a mild man, raising livestock.

בראשית ל"ח:כ"ז

(כז) וַיְהִי בְּעֵת לִדְתָהּ וְהִנֵּה תְאוּמִים בְּבֶטֶןָהּ:

Genesis 38:27

(27) When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb!

שמות כ"ו:כ"ד

(כד) וַיְהִינָּה תְּאֵמָם מִלְּמִטָּה וַיִּחַדְּדוּ יְהִינָּה תְּמִים עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ אֶל־הַטִּבְעֶת
הָאֶחָת כֵּן יִהְיֶה לְשֵׁנֵיהֶם לְשֵׁנֵי הַמְּקַצֵּעַת יְהִינָּה:

Exodus 26:24

(24) They shall match at the bottom, and terminate alike at the top inside one ring; thus shall it be with both of them: they shall form the two corners.

שמות ל"ו:כ"ט

(כט) וַיְהִינָּה תְּאֵמָם מִלְּמִטָּה וַיִּחַדְּדוּ יְהִינָּה תְּמִים אֶל־רֹאשׁוֹ אֶל־הַטִּבְעֶת
הָאֶחָת כֵּן עֲשֵׂה לְשֵׁנֵיהֶם לְשֵׁנֵי הַמְּקַצֵּעַת:

Exodus 36:29

(29) They matched at the bottom, but terminated as one at the top into one ring; they did so with both of them at the two corners.

בראשית ו':ט

(ט) אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדֹרֹתָיו אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים
הִתְהַלֵּךְ־נֹחַ:

Genesis 6:9

(9) This is the line of Noah.—Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age; Noah walked with God.—

בראשית י"ז:א'

(א) וַיְהִי אֲבְרָם בֶּן־תְּשָׁעִים שָׁנָה וַתֵּשַׁע שָׁנִים וַיְרָא יְהוָה אֶל־אֲבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי־אֵל שַׁדַּי הִתְהַלֵּךְ לִפְנֵי וְהָיָה תָמִים:

Genesis 17:1

(1) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, יהוה appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Walk in My ways and be blameless.

בראשית כ"ז:י"ט

(יט) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אָבִיו אֲנֹכִי עָשׂוּ בְכֹרֶךָ עֲשִׂיתִי כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלַי קוֹם־נָא שָׁבָה וְאָכְלָה מִצִּידִי בַעֲבוּר הַבְּרִכָּה נִפְשֶׁךָ:

Genesis 27:19

(19) Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your first-born; I have done as you told me. Pray sit up and eat of my game, that you may give me your innermost blessing."

שמות א':ט'

(ט) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־עַמּוֹ הִנֵּה עִם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב וְעֲצוּם מִמֶּנּוּ:

Exodus 1:9

(9) And he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us.

יחזקאל ט"ז:ה-ז'

(ה) לֹא־חֶסֶה עָלֶיךָ עֵץ לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ אֶחָת מֵאֵלֶּה לְחַמְלָה עָלֶיךָ וְתִשְׁלַכְּי אֶל־פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה בְּגַעַל נִפְשֶׁךָ בְּיוֹם הַלָּדֶת אֹתָךְ: (ו) וְאַעֲבֹר עָלֶיךָ וְאֶרְאֶךָ

מִתְבוֹסֶסֶת בְּדַמֶּיךָ וְאָמַר לְךָ בְּדַמֶּיךָ חַיִּי: (ז)
 רַבָּבָה כְּצֶמַח הַשָּׂדֶה נִתְּתִיךָ וְתִרְבִּי וְתִגְדְּלִי וְתִבְאִי בַעֲדֵי עַדִּיִּים שָׂדִים
 נִכְנֹו וְשָׁעֲרֶךָ צִמָּח וְאֵת עֵרֶם וְעֲרִיהָ:

Ezekiel 16:5-7

(5) No one pitied you enough to do any one of these things for you out of compassion for you; on the day you were born, you were left lying, rejected, in the open field. (6) When I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you: “Live despite your blood.” Yea, I said to you: “Live despite your blood.” (7) I let you grow like the plants of the field; and you continued to grow up until you attained to womanhood, until your breasts became firm and your hair sprouted.

You were still naked and bare

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ט-ל"ד

(כט) וַיֵּזֶד יַעֲקֹב נֹזֵיד וַיָּבֹא עֲשׂוֹ מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה וְהוּא עֵיף: (ל) וַיֹּאמֶר עֲשׂוֹ
 אֶל־יַעֲקֹב הֲלִעִיטָנִי נָא מִן־הָאָדָם הָאָדָם הַזֶּה כִּי עֵיף אָנֹכִי עַל־כֵּן
 קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ אֱדוֹם: (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב מְכֹרָה כִּיּוֹם אֶת־בְּכֹרְתְךָ לִי: (לב)
 וַיֹּאמֶר עֲשׂוֹ הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ לָמוֹת וְלִמְהֵרָה לִי בְכֹרָה: (לג) וַיֹּאמֶר
 יַעֲקֹב הַשְׁבֵּעָה לִּי כִּיּוֹם וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ וַיִּמְכֹּר אֶת־בְּכֹרְתוֹ לְיַעֲקֹב: (לד)
 וַיַּעֲלֵב נִתַּן לַעֲשׂוֹ לָחֶם וְנֹזֵיד עֲדָשִׁים וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשֶׁת וַיִּקֶּם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיָּבֹז עֲשׂוֹ
 אֶת־הַבְּכֹרָה: {פ}

Genesis 25:29-34

(29) Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the open, famished. (30) And Esau said to Jacob, “Give me some of that red stuff to gulp down, for I am famished”—which is why he was named Edom. (31) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” (32) And Esau said, “I am at the point of death, so of what use is my birthright to me?” (33) But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. (34) Jacob then gave Esau bread and lentil stew; he ate and drank, and he rose and went away. Thus did

Esau spurn the birthright.

בראשית ד':ט'

(ט) וַיֹּאמֶר יִהוּדָה אֶל-הָיִן אֵי הַבֶּל אָחִיךָ וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יָדַעְתִּי הִשְׁמֵר אָחִי
אֲנִכִּי:

Genesis 4:9

(9) יהודה said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

*Source Sheet created on Sefaria by Lev Ershler
Based on a sheet by Ruth Shane*