

**My name is irle Goldman
(FINDING A BRIDE FOR ISAAC)**

CHAYEI SARAH AS OASIS

It seems to me that

Parshat Chayei Sarah may be seen as an oasis in the middle of more tumultuous stories (Akedah ON ONE SIDE and Yaakov and Esav's rivalry ON THE OTHER) .

The stories of Chayei Sarah range from the successful purchase of a resting place for our patriarchs and matriarchs, to the finding of a bride for Yitzchak to Abraham's marriage to Keturah and the birth of his other six children

These are stories of success and accomplishment.

What does that mean to teach us?

Let us turn to one of these stories to try to answer that question.

In reading the Parshah, I was especially attracted to the story of the finding of a bride for Yitzchak...

I thought that it may be best seen as
(a short play with Actors: Abraham, Eliezer, Rivkah, and God)

AVRAHAM, THE GODFATHER

- 1) Abraham cares only about making sure that Isaac does not marry a Canaanite but attempt to marry someone from the land of his family but do not allow Isaac to go there)...

(Here is Abraham, the world traveler, wanting for his son to stay home and for Why does Isaac stay home? (PTSD from the Akedah? His Father Abraham's PTSD?)

ELIEZER, THE LOYAL SERVANT

- 2) the person who would have inherited his wealth (Eliezer) is selected to find a wife for his son Yitzchak, (who will hopefully have children, who will inherit hat he would have gotten.)

The trial (magical thinking) that Eliezer sets up...feeding the camels...why?

He wants to find a woman who is compassionate, has empathy and also initiative...why? Because of Yitzchak's needs? (what a good consiliare to the Godfather and especially to his son)

Eliezer's negotiation with God in the service of Abraham (what a great consiliare)

RIVKAH THE HERO

Rivkah is a proactive and powerful woman....just the kind of woman that Yitzchak needs in order to be successful!

Not only does she pass Eliezer's tests but

- 3) Why when Lavan ask for 10 days wait and Eliezer says no, I've got to go now
She says," I will go with this man."

Why does Rivkah get to decide? (compared to what happened with Lavan and Ya'acov...he had to wait 7 years)

This is a woman of substance...just what Yitzchak needs and just who Eliezer is looking for.

GOD

This Parshah and especially this story is the story of a loving God who cares about helping people to get to where they should be, where there are destined to be ...and, in spite of all of the challenges that are inherent with being human, will help us to get to where we need to go.

In this human drama, God is omnipresent...
Avraham says to Eliezer " God will send an angel to guide you"

Eliezer prays to God, "Grant me good fortune this day and deal graciously with my master Abraham."

Lavan says "God has decreed this and we cannot say good or bad about it."

This perhaps is the central THE OUTCOME/MORAL of our story. And because of it, the story ends with one of the most poignant sentences in the Torah.

"Isaac took her for his wife and loved her
and thus found comfort after his mother's death"

What does this teach us?

It works! The Divine process has (can be) been successful! (if we let it happen.)

FINALLY

What do we have to learn from the fact that the Sages decided to create a separate parshah for these few stories (ma'arat hamachpelah, the finding of a bride for Yitzchak, and Abrahams new wife (Keturah and his 6 new sons)?

Perhaps that we must find space for the good things in life
That it is so easy to get distracted by the suffering, the drama, the conflicts of our existence

That we sometimes forget

To create a new parshah in our lives for the sweet, the caring, the stuff is going well...

May each of us be able to create this sort of parshah in each of our own lives whenever possible.

Shabbat Shalom