

## Parashat Chayei Sarah



### Rivka, Our Sister You Will Always Be

#### Between Indecision and Instantaneous Faith in an Unknown Fate

Indecision is one of the many plagues of this generation, especially among young women. There are so many choices out there, and so many distractions that it is often hard to tune into what we really want – what the right thing is – what Hashem wants from us. All our hesitations waste precious time and energy that could have been applied in holy action. This week's parasha can inspire us to learn decisiveness as we are introduced to a girl who knows exactly what she wants from a very young age. Imagine Rivkah a young girl of either three (Rashi, Bereishit 25:20), or fourteen (*Da'at Zekenim Ba'alei Tosfot Bereishit 25:20*), leaving her family, home and birthplace behind without the slightest hesitation. She had just met Avraham's servant for the very first time. The next morning, when he must depart urgently, she agrees to follow him to an unknown fate, in order to marry a man she has never met. With a decisive smile she answers, "I'll go" (*Bereishit 24:58*). To where? To what? To whom? What gave this young child the ability to pick herself up and leave her parents, just like that out of the blue without any time to even pack her bag? The poem below, written as a dialogue between Rivkah and her family, is an attempt to answer this question. I also composed a melody for the poem which you can listen to [here](#) (women only).

#### Walking in Rivkah's Footprints

I admire many of my students who are walking in Rivkah's footsteps leaving everything and everyone behind in order to start a complete new life in the Holy Land. We can count among our students those who left not only their parents but also their children and sometimes grandchildren behind to follow the light. It must be just as hard for a mature woman to say goodbye as it is for a young child. When you have built a life for yourself, succeeded in your career and developed close relationships over the years much faith is needed to heed your calling and actualize your Jewishness fully by living as a Jew in the Promised Land. Women with this kind of spiritual strength truly continue to set Rivkah's example, paving the way for others to follow suit.

#### Blessings of Farewell

"Our sister you will always be,  
even if you were never really one of us.  
We will miss you and feel the greatest loss,  
when the mountain separates between us."

"I have waited all my life for this moment  
when I finally can say my goodbyes.  
I am fed up with all your greediness,  
with your trickery and with all your lies."

"Our sister please don't be so cold,  
as the mountain separates between us.  
It is your time now – we are growing old.  
We will miss the kindness of your way."

"I have waited all my life for this moment  
when I will rise with the sun.  
I am going to marry a very holy man,  
to a home where Hashem will be one."

"Our sister please remember us  
as you take off to meet your soulmate.  
May your merit bring us good luck too,  
as you rise and grow to become great."

"I will miss my mother's sweet caress.  
When you wipe away my tear,  
I may be alone in this unknown world,  
but, still, I really have no fear."

"Our sister, take your nurse with you  
as your faithful comfort and escort.  
When you will long for a well-known face,  
Devorah will be your true support."

"I will take Devorah and be on my way.  
Please take care of the camels and the sheep.  
Bring the pitchers to the well every day.  
Remember to water all the trees."

"Our sister blessings of farewell.  
May your heartfelt prayers become true!  
May Avraham's blessing be fulfilled in you  
and myriads of children come from you!"

"Our sister you will forever be,  
even if you were never really one of us.  
We will miss you and feel the greatest loss,  
when the mountain separates between us."