

## Kabbalah, Genesis & Exodus Part Four.

**The Jealous Heart**  
Or  
If You Want To Make God Laugh,  
Tell Him/Her Your Plans.



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## Circumcision

- A blood ritual
- The coming to manhood
- A replacement for human sacrifice
- 'Necessary suffering'



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## Women in Midrash

- The Midrash says, in its interpretation of the story of Abraham and Sarah, that women have four main traits:
- Greedy
- Eavesdroppers
- Slothful
- Envious

To add to that there are three more intrinsically feminine traits: being talkative, being scratchers, being prone to steal and prone to 'gadding about.'

*Bereishit Rabba 31:19*



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## The Stories are Repeating Patterns

Abraham sends his oldest servant to his place of origin to find Isaac a wife.

He is emphatic that Isaac mustn't go back to their old country but he wants him to have a wife who is a kinswoman (even after Lot).

"Put your hand under my thigh."



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### Eliezer is a man of both humility and faith (Genesis 24).

And he said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master Abraham...'

...And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, "Let down your pitcher, I pray you, that I may drink;" and she replies, "Drink, **and I will give your camels water also,**" may be the one you have appointed for your servant Isaac.'



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## The Return of Shekhinah.

Isaac "brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother" (Gen 24:67). Most translations add 'death' after 'Mother.'

- Took – physical.
- Married – psychological.
- Loved – spiritual.
- Comforted – return of the Divine Mother.



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## Shekhinah ('dwelling').

- Shekhinah is 'the presence of God.'
- It resides both in the heart of God and in the soul of a woman.
- On the Tree of Life, it is placed on the Malkhut (Kingdom) of Azilut (God) as the feminine aspect of Adonai, which resides in the soul of a man.
- Shekhinah gives birth to souls into the world and receives them back into the heavens at death.



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## Zohar (2<sup>nd</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> Century)

“When a man is at home the principal element of his home is his wife, for the Shekhinah does not leave the home as long as his wife is there. For we have learned from the verse ‘Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah, his mother,’ (Gen 24:67) that the lamp was kindled... Why? Because the Shekhinah came into the home.” *Zohar, Conjugal Life: 147-187.*

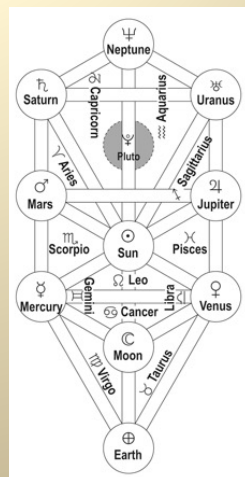


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## Rebekah too is Barren.

But instead of just waiting,  
 “Isaac prayed to the LORD  
 for his wife, because she  
 was barren: and the LORD  
 granted his prayer, and  
 Rebekah his wife  
 conceived.”



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## Rebekah Conceives Esau and Jacob.

Rebekah feels the twins fighting in  
 her womb.

*“She went to enquire of the Lord  
 And the Lord said to her, Two  
 nations are in your womb, and  
 two manner of people shall be  
 separated from your bowels;  
 and the one people shall be  
 stronger than the other people;  
 and the elder shall serve the  
 younger”* Gen 25:24.



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## The Time of Testing

And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

And Isaac loved Esau, because he ate his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob (Gen 25:36-8).

- Esau sells Jacob his birthright (which exoterically means the privileges of the elder son and esoterically means the right to be the priest to the tribe) for 'a mess of pottage.'
- Esau is a simple, animal man who didn't think of consequences.

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## Meanwhile...

There was a famine in the land so Isaac and Rebekah headed south. Genesis tells the story as well as anyone can.

And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: And the men of the place asked him about his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he was afraid to say, She is my wife; in case the men of the place killed him for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

And after they had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife" (Gen 26: 26-8)

And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is your wife: and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her.

And Abimelech said, What is this you have done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us" (Gen 26:8-10).

AGAIN the outsider is the one with integrity.

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## But Back to the Plot...

When Isaac was old he grew blind (which could also be a psychological or spiritual state) and wanted to give his blessing to his eldest son Esau.

Rebekah decided to take things into her own hands — to do God's will for Him.

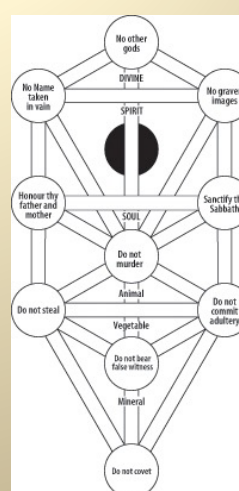
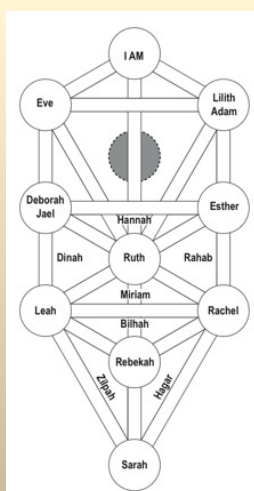
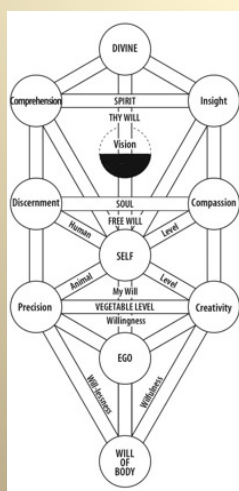
'My father will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.' And his mother said to him, 'Upon me be your curse, my son: only obey my voice.'



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## The Good Intentions That Pave The Path To Hell.



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## Four Levels of Interpretation.

- Literally, Rebekah does what she thinks what has to be done. *She doesn't trust God or Destiny.*
- Allegorically it's a story about cause and effect which can only truly be understood when we come to Jacob's own story and his two wives, Leah and Rachel.
- Metaphysically, the story will either attract or repel you. Those who don't trust God and/or feel they have to hurry the process along, will sympathise or approve of Rebekah's action. You may be right! For me, however, it's a signal to watch how I try to control the world. It's fine to have a guiding hand on the rein but not to act deceitfully or even impulsively to get the end I desire.
- The mystical aspect of the whole story shows that humanity *has* evolved just a little. Isaac intercedes directly for Rebekah's barrenness. And although she tries to control the situation, she has also spoken directly to the Divine herself. And Jacob might not have become Israel had he not had to take his own Hero's Journey.

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## Consequences.

Esau threatens to kill Jacob and Isaac send his younger son away, telling him to travel to Rebekah's relatives and **find a wife from among the tribe.**

Rebekah lost her beloved son completely and most likely lost Esau too.

Midrash says of Rebekah: "Her father was a rogue and her brother was a rogue and the people of her town were likewise rogues, and this righteous woman who came forth from among them might well be compared to a lily among thorns."

Blood will out and Rebekah too was a rogue.

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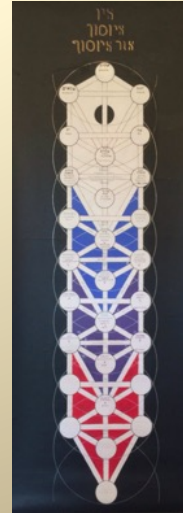


# The Hero's Journey



And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

... And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.



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# The Agents for Jacob's Karma.

Genesis 29:16-17 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak\* eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful.



\* Rak: tender, gentle, soft, weak, inexperienced.

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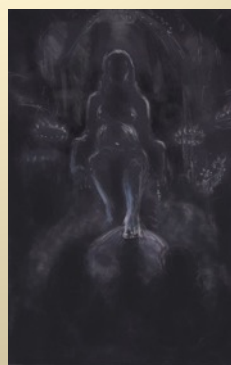
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## Jacob Unwittingly Marries Leah. How?!

And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him [Laban] seven more years.

*NB: there is nothing to say that Rachel loves Jacob.*

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.



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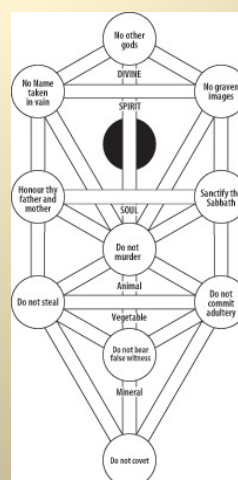
## Covetousness, Theft and Adultery.

And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from you the fruit of the womb? (compare with Isaac)

And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her.

... Then Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife.



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## Rachel and Magic (Gen 30 & 31).

Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray you, of your son's mandrakes.

And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and would you take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, He shall lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes.

And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired you with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night.

And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son.

[Rachel also stole Laban's idols].

In all, Leah had six sons and one daughter.

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## Rachel's Children (Gen 30).

And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, 'God hath taken away my reproach.'

And she called his name Joseph [he will add]; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

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## Jacob and the Speckled Sheep.

Jacob wants to leave.

Laban wants him to stay.

Jacob says he will take the speckled and spotted animals in return for staying and then ensures that they breed more successfully than Laban's animals. This is Laban's Karma. (Gen 30:37)



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## Jacob's Justification.

And the angel of God spoke unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.

And he said, Lift up now your eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban does to you.

I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar, and where you vowed a vow unto me: now arise, get out from this land, and return unto the land of your kindred. (Gen 31).

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## And Jacob saw the face of Laban and it was not friendly as before (Gen 31:2).

Jacob leaves. Laban chases. Rachel's theft of the idols is not discovered.

Jacob seeks forgiveness from Esau.

Rachel becomes pregnant again.



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## Rachel's death (Gen 35:17).

Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

The midwife said unto her, Fear not; you will have this son too.

And, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni [son of my sorrow]: but his father called him Benjamin [son of my right hand].

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## So...we're back to the 'thigh thing'

Gen 32:22: And Jacob was left alone;  
and there wrestled a man with him  
until the breaking of the day.

And when he saw that he could not  
prevail not against him, he touched  
the hollow of his thigh; and the  
hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of  
joint, as he wrestled with him.

And he said, Let me go, for the day is  
breaking. And he said, I will not let  
you go, unless you bless me.

And he said unto him, What is your  
name? And he said, Jacob.

And he said, Your name shall no more  
be Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince  
you have power with God and with  
men, and have prevailed.



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## One Who Struggles With God (Gen 35:1)

- again and again... Repeat OR step up?

And Elohim appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and  
blessed him.

And God said unto him, Your name is Jacob: your name shall not be called any  
more Jacob, but Israel shall be your name: and he called his name Israel.

And God said unto him, I am El Shaddhai [God Almighty]: be fruitful and  
multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be from you, and kings  
shall come out of your loins;

And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, I will give to you, and to your  
seed after you.

And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.

And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar  
of stone: and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.

And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

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## What have we learnt?

- The Bible teaches Karma.
- Prayer works (Isaac and Rebekah).
- Try not to interfere.
- Covetousness is usually the starting point of error.
- Theft includes treating people like things (Bilhah and Zilpah).
- Adultery is to add something that poisons.
- Using magic may work in the short-term but does not bring happiness.
- God/the LORD still loves you however bad you may be.
- Better to wrestle with God than an angel.
- You should not believe a word I – or anyone – says. You have to wrestle with God yourself to find your truth.
- You will not emerge unscathed from that wrestling...

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## Next Time:



The scapegoats – Joseph and Dinah – betrayal by self and by others.

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## Homework

### Invoking Shekhinah

You will need:

Two candles

Wine

Water

Bread

Salt



Sabbath Eve by Boris Brovine Frenkel

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## Further Reading



This is 30 years' worth of research into the Divine Feminine and goes into the stories of the women in the Hebrew Testament at depth and at all four levels.

32

32