

MOTHER, DON'T CRY...

We are all looking for heroes in our lives. Read about one of the greatest.

Someone who can truly inspire us to transcend our conventional trajectory and take our performance to the next level.

There have been many outstanding heroes throughout history, I would just like to share with you one of the greatest of all time. In fact she is our *matriarch, the mother of all Jewish people.

When the Babylonians were in the midst of destroying the first temple and killing thousands of men women and children, the prophet Jeremiah was desperate looking to call out to G-d in prayer and ask for his mercy. The *Midrash* tells us in beautiful prose how he asked Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses to intervene on behalf of their children, but to no avail. Finally he asked Rachel to cry out to G-d and this time G-d replies.

Why does G-d respond to Rachel's tears but is agonisingly silent even to the prayers of our patriarchs?

The answer lies in arguably the single most heroic act recorded in the Torah. As the story goes, Rachel gives up being married to Jacob, the person she loves so as not to embarrass in public her sister Leah. She suffers as a result of this act for the rest of her life.

This is heroism at its pinnacle. This is also the lesson she wanted to teach her children, each and every one of us.

In the words of the prophet, G-d calls out to Rachel and pleads with her, "Stop your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is reward to your actions and hope for the future". But Rachel still cries and will continue to cry until the final words of that verse are realised, "and your children will return to their borders".

So this coming week as we approach the 11th of *Cheshvan* which commemorates the day of passing of our matriarch Rachel, we her children should ask ourselves, what can we do to alleviate the crying of our mother who has cried for thousands of years?

I think the answer can be derived from the story itself. Rachel made the ultimate personal sacrifice in her life so as to inspire her children for all generation to seek to do something similar. To Love our brothers and sisters, to protect their dignity, to go out of our way to accommodate them, and yes, making small sacrifices for their sake. This will certainly put a smile on her face and yes one day soon she will no longer cry.

Warm regards,
Yosef Vogel

11th October

LECH LECHA

Shabbat Begins: 6:02 pm

Shabbat Ends: 7:01 pm