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Whether it is \$18 or \$1800, EVERY DOLLAR HELPS. Please help. CSH / PO Box 1800 / East Hampton, NY 11937

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November Shabbat Service Schedule

**Saturday, November 14th
Parshat Chayei Sarah
Birchat HaChodesh Kisle**

**Saturday, November 21st
Parashat Toldot**

Candle Lighting Friday, November 6, 2009 4:24 pm

Torah Reading Vayera

Annual (Gen. 18:1-22:24): (Etz Hayim, p. 99)
Triennial (Gen. 21:1-22:24): (Etz Hayim, p. 112)
Haftarah: (Etz Hayim, p. 124)

Vayera Musings

Hachnasat Orchim -- Welcoming Guests

The Chafetz Chaim once invited a famous Rabbi who was visiting in his town to partake with him of his Shabbat meal Friday night. When they came home from the prayers the Chafetz Chaim did not say the Shalom Alechem inviting the imaginary angels but immediately proceeded to recite the Kiddush. He then invited everyone to wash and made Hamotzi. It was only after everyone had finished eating the fish that he started to recite the Shalom Alechem. The guest Rabbi could not contain himself. He asked his host to explain why he changed from the usual practice of reciting the Shalom Alechem before Kiddush. The answer he got was that the Chafetz Chaim knew his guest was hungry so he started the meal. The angels, he said, did not depend on him to give them a meal so they could wait.

On the Akeda

Here is the experience of a child of seven who was reading in school the chapter which tells of the sacrifice of Isaac:

Isaac was on the way to Mount Moria with his father; then he lay on the altar, bound, waiting to be sacrificed. My heart began to beat even faster; it actually sobbed with pity for Isaac. Behold, Abraham now lifted the knife. And now my heart froze within me with fright. Suddenly, the voice of the angel was heard: "Abraham, lay not your hand upon the lad, for now I know that you fear God." And here I broke out in tears and wept aloud. "Why are you crying?" asked the rabbi. "You know that Isaac was not killed."

And I said to him, still weeping, "But, rabbi, supposing the angel had come a second too late?"

The rabbi comforted me and calmed me by telling me that an angel cannot come late.

An angel cannot be late, but man, made of flesh and blood, may be.

“The Real Hero”

The real hero of the binding of Isaac was the ram,
who didn't know about the collusion between the others.
He was volunteered to die instead of Isaac.
I want to sing a memorial song about him –
about his curly wool and his human eyes,
about the horns that were so silent on his living head,
and how they made those horns into shofars when he was slaughtered
to sound their battle cries
or to blare out their obscene joy.

I want to remember the last frame
like a photo in an elegant fashion magazine:
the young man tanned and pampered in his jazzy suit
and beside him the angel, dressed for a formal reception
in a long silk gown,
both of them looking with empty eyes
at two empty places,

and behind them, like a colored backdrop, the ram,
caught in the thicket before the slaughter,
the thicket his last friend.

The angel went home.
Isaac went home.
Abraham and God had gone long before.

But the real hero of the binding of Isaac
is the ram..

Yehudah Amichai, “The Real Hero”
The Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai
Tran. Chana Bloch and Stephen Mitchell
(Berkeley: Univ. California Press, 1996)

A Different Akeda

Verily among those who followed his Way was Abraham.
Behold! he approached his Lord with a sound heart.
Behold! he said to his father and to his people, "What is that which ye worship?
"Is it a falsehood- gods other than Allah. that ye desire?
"Then what is your idea about the Lord of the worlds?"
Then did he cast a glance at the Stars.
And he said, "I am indeed sick (at heart)!"
So they turned away from him, and departed.
Then did he turn to their gods and said, "will ye not eat (of the offerings before you)?...
"What is the matter with you that ye speak not (intelligently)?"
Then did he turn upon them, striking (them) with the right hand.

Then came (the worshippers) with hurried steps, and faced (him).
He said: "Worship ye that which ye have (yourselves) carved?
"But Allah has created you and your handwork!"
They said, "Build him a furnace, and throw him into the blazing fire!"
(This failing), they then sought a stratagem against him, but We made them the ones most
humiliated!
**He said: "I will go to my Lord! He will surely guide me!
O my Lord! Grant me a righteous (son)!"**
So We gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear.
Then, when (the son) reached (the age of) (serious) work with him, he said: "O my son! I
see in vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: Now see what is thy view!" (The son) said: "O my
father! Do as thou art commanded: thou will find me, if Allah so wills one practising
Patience and Constancy!"
So when they had both submitted their wills (to Allah, and he had laid him prostrate on his
forehead (for sacrifice),
We called out to him "O Abraham!
"Thou hast already fulfilled the vision!" - thus indeed do We reward those who do right.
For this was obviously a trial-
And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice:
And We left (this blessing) for him among generations (to come) in later times:
"Peace and salutation to Abraham!"
Thus indeed do We reward those who do right.
For he was one of our believing Servants.
And We gave him the good news of Isaac - a prophet,- one of the Righteous.
We blessed him and Isaac: but of their progeny are (some) that do right, and (some) that
obviously do wrong, to their own souls.

Sūra 37: Şāffāt, or those Ranged in Ranks
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/isl/quran/037.htm>

DONATIONS

In Honor of

Miriam Brous by Robbie Kaplan and Rachel Lavine

In Memory of

Morton Schoenbach, brother of Jill, by Sarah Engel

The next time you are looking for a meaningful way to celebrate a simcha, a birthday, a promotion, remember a loved one, or comfort a mourner, please consider making a donation to The Conservative Synagogue of the Hamptons.

Website of the Week -- <http://www.negevnectars.com/>

Negev Nectars is a way of supporting small Israeli farmers in the Negev. We are importing and distributing products previously not available in the US, such as olive oil, honey, jams, dried fruits and chutney that are sustainably produced, kosher and organically certified when possible.

Any profits from the business will be reinvested in Negev farmers to help them to expand their production. The concept is also unique. You buy a share and can send shares as gifts for \$180 and receive shipments of really delicious products three times a year – at Chanukah, Pesach and Rosh Hashanah.

Quote of the Week

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Shabbat shalom.

Stacy

Stacy Menzer
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