

## Seizing the Moment

### Genesis, Chapter 23

1. And the life of Sarah was one hundred years and twenty years and seven years; [these were] the years of the life of Sarah.

2. And Sarah died in Kiriath Arba, which is Hebron, in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to eulogize Sarah and to bewail her.

### Genesis, Chapter 24

1. And Abraham was old, *advanced in days*, and the L-rd had blessed Abraham with everything.

2. And Abraham said to his servant...

3. And I will adjure you by the L-rd, the G-d of the heaven and the G-d of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose midst I dwell.

4. But you shall go to my land and to my birthplace, and you shall take a wife for my son, for Isaac..."

10. And the servant took ten camels of his master's camels, and he went, and all the best of his master was in his hand; and he arose, and he went to Aram Naharaim, to the city of Nahor.

11. And he made the camels kneel outside the city beside the well of water, at eventide, at the time the maidens go out to draw water.

12. And he said, "O L-rd, the G-d of my master Abraham, please cause to happen to me today..."

**The life of Sarah was 100 years and 20 years and 7 years...(23:11)**

#### Rashi

The reason the word *year* is written at every digit is to tell you that every digit is to be explained by itself. At one hundred years old she was like a twenty year old regarding sin. Just as when she was twenty, she was not considered as having sinned since she was not yet subject to punishment, so too at one hundred, she had not sinned. And when she was twenty she was like a seven year old regarding beauty.

**The years of the life of Sara (23:1)**

#### Rashi

They were all equally good.



פרק כג

א. ויהיו חיי שרה מאה שנה ועשרים שנה ושבע שנים שני חיי שרה:

ב. ותמת שרה בקרית ארבע הוא הברון בארץ כנען ויבא אברהם לספד לשרה ולבכתה:

פרק כד

א. ואברהם זקן בא בימים וה' ברח את אברהם בכל:

ב. ויאמר אברהם אל עבדו...

ג. ואשביעך בה' אלקי השמים ואלהי הארץ אשר לא תקח אשה לבני מבנות הכנעני אשר אנכי יושב בקרבם:

ד. כי אל ארצי ואל מולדתי תלך ולקחת אשה לבני ליצחק:

י. ויקח העבד עשרה גמלים מגמלי אדניו וילך וכל טוב אדניו בידו ויקם וילך אל ארם נהרים אל עיר נחור...

יב. ויאמר ה' אלקי אדני אברהם הקרה נא לפני היום ועשה חסד עם אדני אברהם:

### *Abraham was old, advanced in days (24:1)*

#### **The Zohar**

When Abraham aged, he did not merely pass through the days of his life: he accumulated them. Each day was fully utilized, so that they were fully possessed by him.

#### **The Lubavitcher Rebbe**

Rebecca was like a rose among thorns in her family. When she was old enough to marry Isaac, she was able to move away from her surroundings. Abraham could not have instructed Eliezer to begin his mission prior to Rebecca's maturation. But Eliezer's journey was miraculously shortened in order not to keep Rebecca in her corrupt environment for even an extra moment.

### *I arrived today at the well (24:42)*

#### **Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer, ch. 16**

From Hebron to Charan is a 17-day journey, and Eliezer made the trip in three hours.

#### **The Lubavitcher Rebbe**

Together with Abraham, Sarah pioneered the Jewish settlement of the Land of Canaan; her burial in the Cave of Machpelah achieved the first actual Jewish ownership of a piece of land in the Holy Land.

Sarah devoted her life to the creation of the first Jewish family; the story of Rebecca's selection demonstrates how Sarah's successor embodied the ideals upon which Sarah founded the Jewish home.

Even the return of Hagar expresses the extent of Sarah's impact on Jewish history: Sarah's banishment of Hagar and Ishmael was to remove their threat to Isaac's integrity as Abraham's heir; the return of Hagar after her death achieved exactly that: it established Isaac as the torchbearer of the legacy of Abraham.

## SUMMARY

- Every moment in our lives is necessary for our development.
- Eliezer's journey was miraculously shortened so that Rebecca would not need to stay in her corrupt environment for even a moment more than necessary.
- Whether at 100, 20 or 7, all of Sarah's years were equally perfect.
- Abraham and Sarah lived their lives seizing every moment, "entering into each day."
- The portion is called **Chayei Sarah**, the **life** of Sarah, even though the events transpired after her death. Each of the events underscored a continuation of the ideals and teachings that Sara lived her life for, and therefore even after her death, her impact continued.
- When we realize that at every moment we are exactly where we are meant to be, we can seize the opportunity of each of our circumstances.

