

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

The Price of Rejection | Erica Brown | October 28, 2021



Galleries have acquired Giuseppe Bezzuoli, "The Expulsion of Hagar," oil on canvas, (1784) The Uffizi

Genesis 21:14-19

וַיִּשְׁכַּם אַבְרָהָם וַיִּבְרָךְ וַיִּקְחֵם לְחֵם וְחֵמַת מַיִם וַיִּתֵּן אֶל-הַגֵּר שָׁם עַל-שִׁכְמָהּ וְאֶת-הַגֵּלָד וַיִּשְׁלַחָהּ וְתִלְדָּה וְתִמְעַ בְּמִדְבַר בְּצֹא שָׁבַע:

וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן-הַחֵמָת וַתִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הַגֵּלָד תַּחַת אַתְדַּת הַשִּׁיחִים:

וְתִלְדָּה וְתִשָּׁב לָהּ מִמִּדְבַר הַרְחֵק כַּמֶּטְעוֹן לְשֵׁת כִּי אָמְרָה אֶל-אֲרָאָה בְּמוֹת הַגֵּלָד וְתִשָּׁב מִמִּדְבַר וְתִשָּׂא אֶת-קִלְעָהּ וְתִבְרָךְ:

וישמע אלהים את-קול הנער ויקרא מלאך אלהים | אלה-הגדל מן-השמים ויאמר לה מה-לך הַגֵּר אל-תִּירָאִי כִּי-שָׁמַע
אלהים את-קול הנער באשר הוא-שם:

קומי שָׂאִי את-הנער והחזיקי את-ידו בְּךָ כִּי-לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל אֲשִׁימָנּוּ:

ויפקח אלהים את-עיניה ותרא באר מים ונלך ותמלא את-החמת

Early next morning Abraham took some bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He placed them over her shoulder, together with the child, and sent her away. And she wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water was gone from the skin, she left the child under one of the bushes, and went and sat down at a distance, a bowshot away; for she thought, "Let me not look on as the child dies." And sitting thus afar, she burst into tears. God heard the cry of the boy, and an angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and let the boy drink.

Reflective Question

Name and describe a time when you suffered rejection. How did it make you feel? Looking back, share the blessing that came with the rejection.

Leadership Challenge

What solution to a desperate problem might be right in front of your eyes?