

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## THE LEADERSHIP OF TORAH

December 9, 2021 | Erica Brown | Wrestling and Blessing

Becca Thomas: Welcome! Erica's source sheet for today is available here:  
[https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/12-9\\_Genesis-32-Wrestling-and-Blessing\\_v2.pdf](https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/12-9_Genesis-32-Wrestling-and-Blessing_v2.pdf)

Crusher: Angie-Introduce this new Wexnerite!

Yael Bendat-Appell: Intense eye contact

Stuart Rossman: Jacob is an Adonis! Not a meek shepherd

Lisa Lisser: Makes me think of yetzer haRah struggling with yetzer ha tov

Scott Stone: Jacob appears to be winning

Susie Sorkin: Jacob is staring right into the angel's eyes. and the light and dark contrast

Goldie Lansky: Both very strong, tho Jacob looks stronger

Michelle Anfang: we can only see Jacob's face. contrast of red vs white

Jeni Friedman: A compositional division left and right, red and white

Caren Hammerman: Jacob's bulging muscles

Scott Stone: Jacob appears to be holding onto the angel and the angel trying to escape

Judy Oberlander: starkness; contrasts of light and dark; movement of the fabrics and action of the struggle caught at the moment

Crusher: Jacob is naked

Jeni Friedman: They are also upright, which feels unusual for wrestling

Jeni Friedman: It's a nice contrast to lo tov heyot Adam l'vado

Elka Abrahamson: It does sound like something one would say to oneself in a dream - "wake up you are dreaming"

Crusher: Why does Jacob need yet another blessing!

Susie Sorkin: Is there a limit on blessings?

Sonia: Jacob feels guilty

Larry Gellman: Jacob is naked and the angel is not. It seems to suggest that Jacob is being "reborn" through this ordeal. I have a comment

Shelly Kupfer: That's why the dawn is literally a new day and the chance to move forward

Jessica Semel: Dark and Light. Both struggling.

Scott Stone: Selling synagogue real estate to endow the future.

Larry Gellman: Suffering leads us to understand the nature and meaning of blessing. The blessing is coming away feeling empowered to relieve the suffering of ourselves and others in the future.

Scott Stone: The president and deans of any Univeristy

Larry Gellman: I now have TWO comments

Sonia: institutions merging

Crusher: Suffering has made me more empathetic and less judgmental

Goldie Lansky: Such a truism, Larry. I had to teach my partner that when I vented I needed to be heard. Don't tell me how to solve the problem, that is not what I need!

Carrie: I think the angel knows his name, but asks to see if Jacob will be honest

Sonia: this a rebirth moment for Jacob

Jeni Friedman: I think there is an important contrast between the existential crisis of Genesis which is that humans should not be alone, and important moments of growth or interaction in the Bible that can only happen when one is alone.

Lisa Lisser: Is that the same as Ayeka? Where are you and who are you

Jessica Semel: Naming in itself is so super powerful

Becca Thomas: Thank you, Erica! Join us next Tuesday, 12/14 for "Confronting the Climate Crisis" <https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/app/event-details/158> and for our final session with Erica for this year on Thursday, 12/16.

Fred Scherlinder Dobb: thanks so much -- implications here also around reparations, how we treat any potentially ill-gotten gains that we used to think were rightly ours, until we wrestled and saw things afresh....