## THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## THE BOOK OF RUTH

Chapter Two: What's a Man of Valor? Boaz in Art and Text Dr. Erica Brown I May 18, 2022



Barent Fabritius, 1660, The Hermitage, St. Petersburg

## Ruth 2:1-16

ּוְלַנֶעֲמִי מידע [מוֹדַע] לְאִישָּׁה אָישׁ גּבְּוֹר חַׁיִל מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת אֱלִימֶלֶךְ וּשְׁמִוֹ בְּעַז:

ַנִתּאֹמֶר רוּת הַמּוֹאָבִיּה אֱל־נָעֲמִי אֵלְכָה־נָּא הַשָּׁדֶה נַאַלְקָטָה בַשִּׁבֵּלִים אַטֶּר אֲשֶׁר אָמֶצָא־חַן בְּעֵינֶיו נַתָּאֹמֶר לָהּ לְכִי בִתְּי:

וַתַּלֶדְ וַתָּבוֹאֹ וַתְּלַקֵּט בַּשָּׁדֶּה אַחֲרָי הַקּצְרֶים וַיָּקֶר מִקְרֶיהָ חֶלְקָת הַשָּׁדֶה לְבַּעוֹ אֲשֶׁר מִמִּשְׁפַּחת אֱלִימֶלֶדְ:

ָוָהְנָּה־בַּעַז בָּא מָבֵּית לַחָם וַיָּאמֶר לַקּוֹצָרֵים יָהוָה עָמַכֵם וַיָּאמָרוּ לְוֹ יָבַרַכְךְּ יָהוָה:

ַניָאמֶר בּּעַזֹ לְנַעֲרוֹ הַנָּצָב עַל־הַקּוֹצְרֵים לְמָי הַנַּעֲרָה הַוְּאֹת:

וַיַּעַן הַנָּעַר הַנָּצֵב עַל־הַקּוֹצָרִים וַיֹּאמֵר נַעַרָה מְוֹאַבִיָּה הְיֹא הַשַּׁבָה עַם־נַעָמֵי מְשְּׁדֵה מוֹאַב:

ַנִּתְּאֹמֵר אֵלַקְטַה־נַּאֹ וָאַסָפָתֵּי בַעֲמַרִּים אַחָרֵי הַקּוֹצְרֵים וַתַּבְוֹא וַתַּעַמֹוֹד מֵאָז הַבּּקר וְעַד־עַּתָּה חַבְּיָת מְעֵט:

וַיאֹמֶר בּעַז אֶל־רוּת הַלְוֹא שָׁמַעַתִּ בִּתִּי אַל־מַלְכִי לֹלְלְטֹ בְּשָׁדֶה אַחֵּר וְגָם לָא תַעֲבוּרָי מְזֶּה וְכָה תִדְבָּקִין עִם־נַעֲרֹתֶי:

עִינִירְ בַּשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר־יִקְצֹרוּוֹ וְהָלַכְתִּ אַחָרֵיהֶּן הָלוֹא צָנִּיתִי אֶת־הַנְּעָרֶים לְבַלְתִּי נָגְעֵךְ וְצָמִּת וְהָלַכְתְּ אֶל־הַכֵּלִים וְשָׁתִּית מֵאֲשֶׁר יִשְׁאֵבְוּן הַנְּעַרִים:

וַתִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנֶיהָ וַתִּשְׁתַּחוּ אָרֶצָה וַתִּאׁמֶר אֵלֶיו מַדּוּעַ מָצָאתִי חָן בְּעֵינֶיךּ לְהַכִּיבִינִ וְאָנֹכִי נְכְרַיָה:

ניָען בּעזֹ ניָאמֶר לָה הַגַּּד הַגַּד לִי כָּל אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׁיתֹ אֶת־חָמוֹתֵׁךְ אחָרָי מְוֹת אִישֵׁךְ נִתְּעַזְבִّי אֶבִיךְ וְאִמֶּךְ וְאֶרֶץׁ מְוֹלִדְתַּהְ נִתְּלְכִי אֵל־עִّם אֵשֵׁר לֹא־יַדָעַת תִּמְוֹל שָׁלְשָׁוֹם:

יְשַׁלֵם יְהוָה פָּעֲלֶךְ וּתְהִּי מַשְׂכֵּרְתַּׁךְ שָׁלַכָּה מֵעָם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל אֲשֶׁר־בָּאת לַחֲסְוֹת הַחַת־בְּנָפֵיו:

ַנֿתּאמֶר אֶמְצָא־חַוֹן בְּעֵינֶיךְ אֲדֹנִי בִּי נְחַמְּהָנִי וְכִי דַבָּרָתָ עַל־לֵב שִׁפְחָתֶךְ וְאָנֹכִי לְא אֱהְיֶּה בְּאַחַת שִׁפְחֹתֵיך:

ניאמֶר נָה בֿעַז לָעָת הָאָכֶל גָּשָׁי הָלֹם וָאָכָלְהָּ מִן־הַלֶּּחֶם וְטָבַלְהְּ פָּחֵּךְ בַּחֲמֶץ וַמַּשֶׁבֹ מִצְּד הַקּוֹצְלִים וַיִּצְבָּט־לָהּ קֵלִי וַתְּאכַל וַתִּשָׂבַע וַתֹּתַר:

וַתָּקֶם לְלַקֶּט וַיְצַוּ בּצַז אֶת־נְעָרָיו לֵאמֹר גַּם בִּין הָעֶמָרָים תְּלַקּט וְלָאׁ תַכְלִימְוּהָ:

ָוְגָם שׁל־הָשָׁלוּ לָה מִן־הַאָּבָתֵים וַעַזַבְתָּם וְלקְטָה וְלָא תִגְעַרוּ־בָה:

ַנַתְּלַקֵּט בַּשָּׂדָה עַד־הָעָרֶב נַתַּחְבַּטֹ אַת אֲשֶׁר־לְלֵּטָה נַיְהָי כְּאֵיפָה שְׁעֹרִים:

ַנִתִּשָּׂאֹ נַתָּבָוֹא הָעִּיר נַתָּרָא חֲמוֹתָה אֵת אֲשֶׁר־לֵקֶטָה נַתּוֹצֵאֹ נַתִּהֶן־לָּה אֵת אֲשֶׁר־הוֹתָרָה מִשָּׂבְעֶה:

ַנַתּאמֶר נָּה חָמוֹתָה אֵיפָּה לַקַּטְתְּ הַיּוֹם וְאָנָה עָשִּׁית יְהִי מַכִּירֶךְ בָּרֵוּךְ וַתַּגָד לַחָמוֹתָה אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה עִּמִּׁו וַתִּאֹמֶר שֵׁם הָאִישׁ אֲשֵׁר עָשֶׂיתִי עִמֶּוֹ הַיִּוֹם בְּעַז:

וַהָּאמֶר נָצֵמָי לְכַלֶּתָּה בָּרִוּךְ הוּא לֵיהוָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָזַב חַסְדּוֹ אֶת־הַחַיֵּים וְאֶת־הַמֵּתֵים וַתְּאמֶר לָהְ נָצְמִי קָרְוֹב לָנוּ הָאִישׁ מֶגאֵלֵנוּ הָוּא:

1. Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a man of substance, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

- 2. Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "I would like to go to the fields and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone who may show me kindness." "Yes, daughter, go," she replied;
- 3. and off she went. She came and gleaned in a field, behind the reapers; and, as luck would have it, it was the piece of land belonging to Boaz, who was of Elimelech's family.
- 4. Presently Boaz arrived from Bethlehem. He greeted the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they responded, "The LORD bless you!"
- 5. Boaz said to the servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose girl is that?"
- 6. The servant in charge of the reapers replied, "She is a Moabite girl who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.
- 7. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' She has been on her feet ever since she came this morning. She has rested but little in the hut."
- 8. Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen to me, daughter. Don't go to glean in another field. Don't go elsewhere, but stay here close to my girls.
- 9. Keep your eyes on the field they are reaping, and follow them. I have ordered the men not to molest you. And when you are thirsty, go to the jars and drink some of [the water] that the men have drawn."
- 10. She prostrated herself with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why are you so kind as to single me out, when I am a foreigner?"
- 11. Boaz said in reply, "I have been told of all that you did for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband, how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth and came to a people you had not known before.
- 12. May the LORD reward your deeds. May you have a full recompense from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have sought refuge!"
- 13. She answered, "You are most kind, my lord, to comfort me and to speak gently to your maidservant—though I am not so much as one of your maidservants."
- 14. At mealtime, Boaz said to her, "Come over here and partake of the meal, and dip your morsel in the vinegar." So she sat down beside the reapers. He handed her roasted grain, and she ate her fill and had some left over.
- 15. When she got up again to glean, Boaz gave orders to his workers, "You are not only to let her glean among the sheaves, without interference,

16. but you must also pull some [stalks] out of the heaps and leave them for her to glean, and not scold her."

Job 29:1-18 2. מָי־יִתְּנָנִי כְיַרְחֵי־קֶדֶם כִּימִׁי אֱלְוֹהַ יִשְׁמְרֵנִי: O that I were as in months gone by, in the days when God watched over me, 3. בָהַלְּוֹ נֵרוֹ עֲלֵי רֹאִשֶׁי לְאוֹרוֹ אֱלֶךְ חְשֶׁךְ: When His lamp shone over my head, when I walked in the dark by its light, 4. בַאַשֵׁר הַיִיתִי בִּימֵי חַרְפֵּי בַּסוֹד אֵלוֹהַ עַלֵי אָהַלִי: When I was in my prime, when God's company graced my tent, 5. בִּעְוֹד שֲׁדַּי עִפַּדֵי סָבָיבוֹתִי נִעָרֵי: When Shaddai was still with me, when my lads surrounded me, 6. בַּרַחָץ הַלִּיכֵי בָּחָמָה וְצִוּר יַצְוּק עְׁמַּדִי פַּלגִי־שַׁמַן: When my feet were bathed in cream, and rocks poured out streams of oil for me. 7. בָּצֵאתִי שַעַר עַלֵי־קָרֶת בַּרָחוֹב אַכִין מוֹשַבִי: When I passed through the city gates to take my seat in the square, 8. רָאָוּנִי נָעַרִים וְנֶחָבָּאוּ וִישִׁישִׁים קַמוּ עַמֵדוּ: Young men saw me and hid, elders rose and stood; 9. שַׁרִים עַצָּרָוּ בָמָלֵּים וְכַּף יַשִּׁימוּ לִפִּיהֵם: Nobles held back their words; they clapped their hands to their mouths. 10. קוֹל־נָגִידֵים נֶחָבָּאוּ וֹּלְשׁוֹנָם לְחָכָּם דָּבֵקָה: The voices of princes were hushed; their tongues stuck to their palates.

The ear that heard me acclaimed me; the eye that saw, commended me.

11.

ַכִּי אָזֶן שֻׁמְעָה וַתְּאַשְּׁרֻנִי וְעַיִן רָאֲתָה וַתְּעִידְנִי:

12. בִּי־אֲמַלֵּט עַנִי מִשַׁוָעַ וְיָתוֹם וְלֹא־עֹזֵר לְוֹ: For I saved the poor man who cried out, the orphan who had none to help him. 13. בּרְבַּת אָבֵד עָלֵי תָּבָא וְלֵב אַלְמָנָה אַרְגָן: I received the blessing of the lost. I gladdened the heart of the widow. 14. צָדָק לָבַשָׁתִי וַיִּלְבַּשֻׁנִי כִּמְעֵיל וְצַנִיף מִשְׁפַּטִי: I clothed myself in righteousness and it robed me, justice was my cloak and turban. 15. עינֵים הַיִיתִי לעוֹּר וְרַגְלַיִם לפָּפֶּח אָנִי: I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. 16. ַאָב אֲנֹכִי לָאֶבְיוֹגִים וְרָב לֹא־יַדַעְתִּי אֶחְקְרֵהוּ: I was a father to the needy, and I looked into the case of the stranger. 17. ַנָאֲשַׁבָּרָה מְתַלְעִוֹת עַנֻּל וֹּמִשִּׁנַּיו אֲשָׁלִיךְ טֵרֵף: I broke the jaws of the wrongdoer, and I wrested prey from his teeth.

I thought I would end my days with my family, and be as long-lived as the phoenix.

18.

ָוָאֹמַר עִם־קנִּי אֶגְוָע וְכַחוֹל אַרְבֶּה יָמִים: