

## PEOPLE OF PRINCIPLE

### Background

What Rochel is being asked to do here is give up her entire world. This is her husband-to-be that she has been engaged to for seven years. She waited for him, longed for him, and loved him. Now in a flash, she sees that the event that this *tzaddik* had planned being wiped out in front of her eyes. Her sister will be taking her place, and not just her place as the husband of her beloved, not just her place as the mother of the Jewish Nation, but her place in the World to Come. If she didn't marry Yaakov now, who is to say that she would ever marry him? In fact, people were saying that since there were two sisters and two brothers — Yaakov and Aysav and Rochel and Leah — if she didn't go to Yaakov now, it is quite likely that she wouldn't go to Aysav.

### Questions

Granted, her sister would suffer some embarrassment. But even if it was a terrible amount of *busha*, where did Rochel get the strength to give up everything not to see another person's suffering?

#### תלמוד בבלי מסכת מגילה דף יג/ב

דכתיב ויגד יעקב לרחל כי אחי אביה הוא. וכי אחי אביה הוא? והלא בן אחות אביה הוא? אלא אמר לה מינסבא לי. אמרה ליה אין מיהו אבא רמאה הוא ולא יכלת ליה. אמר לה אחי אנא ברמאות. אמרה ליה ומי שרי לצדיקי לסגויי ברמיותא? אמר לה אין עם נבר תתבר ועם עקש תתפל. אמר לה ומאי רמיותא? אמרה ליה אית לי אחתא דקשישא מינאי, ולא מנסיב לי מקמה. מסר לה סימנים. כי מטא ליליא, אמרה השתא מיכספא אחתאי, מסרתניהו ניהלה. והיינו דכתיב ויהי בבקר והנה היא לאה: מכלל דעד השתא לאו לאה היא? אלא מתוך סימנין שמסרה רחל ללאה לא הוה ידע עד השתא

*Yaakov told Rochel that "I am the brother of you father." However, he wasn't the brother of her father; his mother was the sister of her father. What happened was that Yaakov had asked Rochel to marry him. She agreed, but she said, "My father is devious, and he will not allow it. I have an older sister, and he will not allow me to get married before her," to which Yaakov said, "I am his brother in trickery." This is what he meant when he said, "I am your father's brother."*

*Rochel asked, "Is it permitted for a tzaddik to resort to deception?"*

*Yaakov answered, "Yes, when you are dealing with someone who acts that way." He then gave her a password, a signal that would insure that Lavan wouldn't trick them and put Leah in Rochel's place.*

*The night that the wedding was to take place, Rochel saw Leah preparing to go to Yaakov and said, "Now my sister will be embarrassed," so she gave the simman to Leah. That is why the posuk says, "In the morning, it was Leah." Wasn't it Leah at night as well? At night, Yaakov thought that it was Rochel. Only in the morning did he understand that in fact it was Leah that had been put in Rochel's place.*