

## LEAH AND THE MANDRAKES

**Gen. 30:14-17** Now in the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please **give me some of your son's mandrakes.**" But she said to her, "Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son's mandrakes also?" So Rachel said, "**Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes.**" 16 When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, then Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night." 17 she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son Issachar. After that she conceived a sixth son Zebulun.

Mandrakes (love apples), were a potato like yellow fruit (when ripe), that were medically acknowledged



to help with fertility while acting also as a very fragrant aphrodisiac. As sisters with the same husband, Rachel and Leah were siblings. Rachel wanted the mandrakes, thinking they would help her with her fertility and Leah used the mandrakes as payment to spend the night with her husband Jacob. Rachel wanted fertility and Leah wanted to lay with Jacob. They acted like most typical sisters would in the situation and made a deal with each other.

Do you realize that there is a good chance that a Torah command against marrying sisters may have been put in place because of what happened with Jacob, Leah, and Rachel?

**Lev 18:18** says *thou shall not take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, while she is still alive.* [A man can not have two sisters at the same time].

Vex means- annoy, irritate, infuriate, anger, inflame, enrage, distress, to show hostility toward.

**Great vexation took place between Rachel and Leah. They were rivalling siblings.**

This dis-function took place all because Laban was a greedy man. He tricked Jacob into taking the sister that he never wanted, so he could cause him to work for him seven more years just to get the sister that he desired. Jacob loved Rachel and hated Leah (Gen 2:30-31). Unknowingly he humbled the wrong sister, so by law he had to stay with her. She conceived many times while Rachel (the sister he loved) remained barren.

The word says that when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. 2And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in Yahveh's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

Because Rachel was so sad that she could not have children, she came up with the same scheme that Sarah did. She gave Jacob her maid also. **Gen. 30:1-8** Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die." 2 **Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel,** and he said, "Am I in the place of Yahveh, who has withheld from you the fruit of the

womb?" 3 And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; so that she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. (adding more drama to this already stressful situation) 4 And **she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her.** 5 And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. 6 And Rachel said, Yah hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan. 7 And **Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son.** 8 And Rachel said, (---->) With great wrestling have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali. All this competition, yet Rachel still had no son of her own.

#### **Then we see Leah retaliate**

**Gen. 30:9-10** When Leah saw that she was left bearing (she was not pushing out any more children), she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. 10 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob two son named Gad and Asher. Now Leah was happy again.

**Gen. 30:14-17** And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give your son's mandrake to me, I pray thee. 15 then Leah said unto her,----> **IS IT A SMALL MATTER THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN MY HUSBAND? and now you wanna take away my son's mandrakes also?** And Rachel said, look Jacob shall come and lie with you to night for thy son's mandrakes okay? (so she gave Leah her night with Jacob for the Mandrake fertility fruit). 16 And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, "You must come in unto me; for surely I have HIRED thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. 17 she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son Issachar. After that she conceived a sixth son Zebulun.

**Gen. 30:20** And Leah said, Yah hath given me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun. After Leah conceived and bore Reuben, she said, "Because Yah has looked upon my affliction; now my husband will love me." (see also Gen 29:32).

**Jasher 31:19-21** Rachel was still barren in those days, and Rachel prayed unto Yahveh at that time, and she said, Oh Yahveh Elohim remember me and visit me, I beseech thee, for now my husband will cast me off, for I have borne him no children. 20 Now Oh Yahveh, hear my supplication before thee, and see my affliction, and give me children like one of the handmaids, that I may no more bear my reproach. 21 And Yahveh heard her and opened her womb, and Rachel conceived and bare a son, and she said, Yahveh has taken away my reproach, and she called his name Joseph, saying, May Yahveh add to me another son; and Jacob was ninety-one years old when she bare him".

**Poor Yacov, he didn't have a chance. He was bounced around back and forth trying to please two women. The result was envy, strife, rivalry, stress, jealousy, hostility and frustration.**

This situation was not a creation of the Most High. When fleshly situations take place, the Most High works around them to bring forth his will in spite of men's endeavours. If Jacob had never been tricked by Laban, Rachel (the one he loved), would have ended up being the Mother of all 12 sons. But because Jacob was deceived, many fleshly things were set in motion. The end result was always going to be the same because the Most High wanted 12 tribes but how they came to be would have been different if Jacob had not been deceived.

Many seem to think Jacob's situation was smooth sailing. Some think Rachel and Leah were living peacefully together, sharing Jacob in one big happy home. There was ongoing jealousy, hate, envy, hostility, and strife even among their children. The sons became envious of Joseph because Jacob loved him more because he was his child of his old age from Rachel (the love of his life). It says, when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. **Gen 37:3-4** Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. 4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so **they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms".**

The way to peace is to seek out the directive that he gave man and not add unnecessary drama to your lives ~~Kim Torah

This all took place long before the law established at Mt. Sinai was implemented.

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