

PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH  
GENESIS 23:1-25:18  
HAFTARAH I KINGS 1:1-31  
25 CHESHVAN 5784/09 NOVEMBER 2023



*Young Girl at a Window*  
Oil on canvass by Mary Cassatt

TO IMAGINE OTHERWISE

1. Sarah dies. (Genesis 23:2)  
Abraham buries her in the cave of Machpelah. (Genesis 23:19)  
Abraham seeks a wife for Isaac. (Genesis 24:4)  
Rebecca appears at the well. (Genesis 24:15)  
Isaac brings Rebecca into Sarah's tent. (Genesis 24:67)  
Abraham remarries. (Genesis 25:1)  
Abraham fathers more children. (Genesis 25:2)  
Isaac and Ishamel bury Abraham. (Genesis 25:9)  
Ayleh toldot Yishmael/This is the line of Ishmael. (Genesis 25:12)

2. Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi [the well of the Living One Who sees me]. (Genesis 16:14)

Isaac had just come back from the vicinity of Beer-lahai-roi. (Genesis 24:62)

3. [Doubt casts its heavy cloud over just about every aspect of human existence....At certain junctures, the path leading to the next moment seems totally obscured. Ora Wiskind-Elper, *Wisdom of the Heart*] Death speaks of absence. The dead themselves harbor no more hope of being alive. Because they feel hopeless and utterly despairing – in that subjective sense they are dead. Death means a degradation to a lower state. As the Zohar says, the dead are humbled – that is, one cannot comprehend the hope of returning to live again. Truly, though, the “breath of the bones” never dies. All those days when it looked as if one was dead and gone, so in the future, when the dead live again, all of them will know themselves. They will recall all the experiences of their lives and the days they rested/died. Now they will see that it is they themselves who have risen to live again. (Rabbi Ya’akov Leiner, quoted in *Wisdom of the Heart*.)