

PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH
25 CHESHVAN 5781/12 NOVEMBER 2020



Twilight
Painting by Rahileh Rokhsari

The whole painting process for me represents a full life cycle. It is born with the first brush stroke and dies with the last. At the end, after I put on my signature, I whisper to myself that “in the next painting I will start in a different way.”

~ Rahileh Rokhsari

A NEW BEGINNING REQUIRES WILL

1. Milcah too has borne children....Bethuel begot Rebecca.... (Genesis 22:20-24)

This is the line of Ishmael, Abraham's son.... (Genesis 25:12-18)

This is the line of Isaac.... (Genesis 25:19)

2. SARAH

Sarai treated her harshly... (Genesis 16:6)

“You are El-Rohee, for I have seen after having seen.” (Genesis 16:13)

Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “Now that I am withered...” (Genesis 18:12)

“Cast out that slave-woman and her son...” (Genesis 21:10)

3. ABRAHAM

Lech Lecha...(Genesis 12:1)

Abram passed through... (Genesis 12:6)

“Will you sweep away the innocent...?” (Genesis 18:23)

The matter distressed Abraham greatly, for it concerned a son of his. (Genesis 21:11)

“Go to the land of my birth and get a wife for my son Isaac.” (Genesis 24:4)

Abraham took another wife... (Genesis 25:1)

4. Negation as transcendence versus negation as finitude (annihilation)

“I think, I want, in spite of my finitude.” (Paul Ricoeur, *History and Truth*)