

PARSHAT VAYERA
19 CHESHVAN 5781/05 NOVEMBER 2020



THE SHATTERING OF TRUTH

1. ... וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה... וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים... (Genesis 18:1-2)
2. "...am I to have enjoyment, with my husband so old?" (Genesis 18:12)
"...shall I in truth bear a child, old as I am?" (Genesis 18:13)
3. Mutar leshanot mipnei hashalom. (Talmud, Yevamot 65b)
4. About a bride at a wedding, the custom was to say "The bride is beautiful and graceful." Members of the school of Shammai, however, were not prepared to say so if, in their eyes, the bride was not beautiful and graceful, citing Torah (Exodus 23:7) "Keep far from falsehood." (Talmud, Ketubot 16b)
5. "Abraham said of Sarah his wife, 'She is my sister.'" (Genesis 20:2)
"And besides, she is in truth my sister, my father's daughter though not my mother's" (Genesis 20:12)
6. וַיְהִי אֶחָד הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה (Genesis 22:1)

7. Rabbi Shimon said: When God was about to create Adam, the ministering angels split into contending groups. Some said, “Let Adam be created.” Others said, “Let him not be created.” That is why it is written: “Mercy and truth collided, righteousness and peace clashed” (Psalm 85:11). The Holy Blessed One took truth and threw it to the ground. The angels said, “Sovereign of the Universe, why do You do this? Let truth arise from the ground.” Thus it is written, “Let truth spring up from the earth” (Psalm 85:12). (B’reishit Rabbah 8:5)