

Opened Her Eyes

1. Genesis 21:15-19

When the water was gone from the skin, she left the child under one of the bushes, and went and sat down at a distance, a bowshot away; for she thought, "Let me not look on as the child dies."

And sitting thus afar, she burst into tears.

God heard the cry of the boy, and an angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is.

Come, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water, and let the boy drink.

וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן־הַחֶמֶת וַתִּשְׁלַח אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד תַּחַת אֶחָד
הַשִּׁיחִים:

וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּשֶׁב לָהּ מִנְּגַד הַרְחֵק כַּמֶּטְחָיו קִשְׁתָּ כִּי אָמְרָה
אֶל־אֲרָאָה בְּמֹות הַיֶּלֶד וַתֵּשֶׁב מִנְּגַד וַתִּשָּׂא אֶת־קֶלֶהָ
וַתִּבְךְ:

וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנְּעִר וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאָךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶל־
הַגֵּר מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מֵה־לָּךְ הַגֵּר אֶל־תִּירְאִי כִּי־
שָׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל־קוֹל הַנְּעִר בְּאֲנָשׁ הוּא־שָׁם:

קוּמִי שִׂאִי אֶת־הַנְּעִר וְהַחֲזִיקִי אֶת־יָדָךְ בּוֹ כִּי־לִגְוִי גְדוֹל
אֲשִׁימֶנּוּ:

וַיִּפְקַח אֱלֹהִים אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרָא בְּאֵר מַיִם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּמְלֵא
אֶת־הַחֶמֶת מַיִם וַתִּשְׁקֵן אֶת־הַנְּעִר:

2. Sferno on Genesis 21:15-19, 15th Century

opened her eyes God granted her the instinct to look for water in the place where she would find it. She had not been blind previously so that her eyes had to be "opened."

ויפקח אלהים את עיניה
נתן בה דעת להכיר מקום מים שהיה שם כי לא היתה סומא
קודם לכן:

Discussion questions:

What do you see happening in this text?

How are you responding to Hagar in this story?