TALKING ABOUT

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GENESIS

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A Resource Guide

In a sense, Sarah the banisher and Hagar the banished share the same fear. Though differently privileged and provided for, both are afraid that there won't be enough—not enough love to go around, not enough water to survive, not enough of an inheritance for two sons. The grace God offers is not primarily the provision of "more." Rather, divine grace affords the vision to discover, to create, and sometimes merely to notice sufficiency. "And God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water" (Genesis 21:18). So often, I find that what we request of God is already before us, within our grasp, granted long ago and with surfeit.

—Rabbi Debra Orenstein, a senior fellow of the Wilstein Institute and instructor at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, is the editor of Lifecycles 1: Jewish Women on Life Passages and Personal Milestones