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“Dangerous Liaisons”
Stories of the Other Woman
Rachel
A Favourite Israelite Bride

Delilah
A Hired Seductress

Witch of Endor
An Apostate Israelite
Dangerous Liaisons: Rachel’s Story
So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent… but he did not find them… and entered Rachel’s. Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel’s saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. And she said to her father, “Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me.” So he searched but did not find the household gods. Gen 31:33-35
Rachel’s Moral Compass

1. No other Gods
2. No wood/stone idols
3. No blasphemy
4. Must work & rest
5. Honour parents
6. No murder
7. No adultery
8. No stealing
9. No lies
10. No coveting

Rachel is not presented as a godly woman
1. Jacob ‘grasps’ everything by deception and stubbornnessness

Birthright  Gen 25
Blessing    Gen 27
Chosen Wife Gen 29
Flocks      Gen 30
Chosen Son  Gen 30

2. God takes everything away; Jacob is left poor, homeless & weak

Gen 41-43
Gen 35
Gen 37

3. God gives everything back by His grace

Gen 47:20  Gen 47:12  Gen 47:5
Except Rachel
Gen 47:17  Gen 46:30
Leah’s Burial Place

Cave of Machpelah

Only part of the Promised Land Abraham ever owned

Cave holds:
- Abraham & Sarah
- Isaac & Rebekah
- Jacob & Leah

Jacob buried Leah there
Gen 49:29-32
Affirmation as rightful wife?

Rachel finishes outside Israel
Dangerous Liaisons: Delilah’s Story
Delilah: A Danger Foretold?

Samson went down to Timnah… As they approached the vineyards… suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. **Jdg 14:5**

A symbol of a powerful killer, good or evil
> 70 refs, e.g. Hos 5:13-14; 1 Pet 5:8
<= A real danger
> 25 refs, e.g. Dan 6

A symbol of a fertile woman
> 20 refs, e.g. Is 5:1-2
• Vineyard is where wine grows
  • Wine = Blood  **Mt 26:27-28**
  • Blood = Life  **Gen 9:4, Lev 17:11, Dt 12:23**
=> Vineyard is where life grows = a fertile woman
Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. Jdg 14:5

The lion came out of the foreign vineyard
⇒ Danger for Samson came from fertile women
The lion came only for him: it was *his* danger
Unraveling Secrets

Samson deceived Delilah 3 times about the source of his strength being his 7 braids

- All of Samson’s lies pointed at the truth
- Delilah repeatedly revealed her treachery
- Samson’s resistance to Delilah was only as strong as his weakest day

- Our resistance to temptation is only as strong as our weakest day
  => so don’t dwell with ‘her’
The lords of the Philistines came up to [Delilah] and said to her, “Seduce [Samson], and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him… And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.” Jdg 16:5

Was Delilah ever paid?
Remembering Vashti

Vashti was deposed as queen.

The men feared it would set a precedent for wives to stand up to their husbands’ demands

*Est 1:10-12, 17-20*
Can’t remain Queen

Can’t remain alive
Next Story:
A man confesses to his mother
“The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you… behold, the silver is with me; I took it.” …he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother.  Jdg 17:2-3

Implications:
• Silver pieces were for Delilah
• Debt no longer needs paying
  => Delilah has been killed
The man with 1,100 pieces of silver was from Ephraim. How could he be involved with the conspiracy?

A Philistine lord intended to pay with money robbed from Israel?

Irony: *Samson had already done this to the Philistines*  
- Bets 30 garments the Philistines couldn’t solve his riddle  
- Loses bet when they ask his (Philistine) fiancé the answer  
- Kills 30 Philistines and pays his debt with their clothes
The Lion attacking from the Vineyard prophesied Samson’s fatal weakness.

Samson’s hopeless lies confirmed Delilah as his Leading Lady.

The returned 1100 silver pieces strongly suggests Delilah was assassinated.

Delilah was as much a victim as Samson.
Dangerous Liaisons:
The Witch at Endor’s Story
When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul.” 1 Sam 28:12
How does the Witch know her visitor is King Saul?

Consider what she does know:

• King Saul is unusually close by

• Saul has expelled the mediums from the land
  \(1\text{ Sam 28:3}\)
  \(\Rightarrow\) so would only come in disguise \(1\text{ Sam 28:9}\)

• She has an unknown visitor who is unusually tall – as Saul is

• Her visitor has servants, so is a man of importance

• She is still in business
  \(\Rightarrow\) She is smart enough to survive in a lethal environment

\(\ldots\text{ and what we can deduce about her}\)
How does the Witch know her visitor is King Saul?

Consider what happens:

• The very tall visitor requests God’s prophet Samuel 1 Sam 28:11
  => Samuel terrified everyone; so a very unlikely request

  When [Samuel] arrived, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?” 1 Sam 16:4

• Samuel generally accompanied King Saul
  1 Sam 15; 13:8-10; 9:15-27

• SAMUEL APPEARS!

=> How can she not know?!
When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice

1 Sam 28:12

What does this reveal?

- Her witchcraft was in secret, so she would never normally scream
  ⇒ She was genuinely terrified
  ⇒ Something unexpected and shocking had happened – what?
  ⇒ Samuel had appeared! (i.e. normally no-one did!)

- The Bible says it was Samuel (1 Sam 28:12-20) because it was

  God can raise the dead, but the witch never could
Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” 1 Sam 28:15

- Samuel knows God raised him (b/c of Saul); the witch did nothing
- “disturbed” consistent with being unconscious
- “up” is consistent with coming from the grave but inconsistent with coming from Heaven (i.e. “down”)

“The Lord will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.” 1 Sam 28:19

- Resurrection is only by God
- The faithful (Samuel) and the rejected (Saul’s sons) go to the same place – below – after death
Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows. *Jon 1:16*

Consider her spiritual peers:

1) Gentile sailors with Jonah, worshipping foreign gods

*Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.* *Jon 1:16*

2) Rahab of Jericho, engaged in prostitution

“*I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us…*” And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father’s household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day. *Jos 2:9, 6:25*

3) Woman of Endor, engaged in witchcraft

=> God intervened in her life… doubtless with powerful effect

**The Witch may well have been converted**
Rachel
A Favourite Israelite Bride
Idolater, Left ‘outside of Israel’?

Delilah
A Philistine Seductress
Manipulated victim?

Witch of Endor
An Apostate Israelite
Convert?