

If you could be anyone in the Torah, who would it be and why?

If you could be anyone in the Torah who would it be? Would it be Moses or Miriam who were both strong and courageous leaders? Or how about Mordechai and Esther, both amazing role-models who were willing to take huge risks to save the Jewish People. Well today, I am not going to tell you about either of these couples but rather about an impressive woman called Sarah.

Sarah was the first Jewish woman, the first of our seven prophetesses and a seer. In short, Sarah is Judaism's beginning and offers all Jewish girls and women the example of what we can strive to be.

First of all, Sarah was no shrinking flower. Sarah was very brave. Torah teaches us that Sarah followed Abraham first to Canaan and then to Egypt during a famine in Canaan. These are huge journeys. Because Sarah was so beautiful, Abraham and Sarah pretended to be brother and sister rather than husband and wife so that Pharaoh would not kill Abraham to take Sarah. Even when Pharaoh took Sarah, she was brave and waited while Hashem sent plagues that encouraged Pharaoh to release Sarah.

Second, Sarah was blessed with great skills and wisdom. Torah teaches us that Sarah had incredible spiritual gifts, including her abilities as a prophet and seer. In every area of goodness, Sarah was the equal of Abraham. In fact, Hashem tells Abraham that anything that Sarah says, Abraham is to listen. My mother tells me that this statement did not just apply for Sarah and Abraham, but my father seems to have some questions on that.

I would also love to be Sarah because she was incredibly patient. Sarah had been barren (which means unable to have children) her whole life, but never lost faith in following Hashem. Sarah eventually had Issac when she was ninety years old.

The fourth reason why I would love to be Sarah is because of her name. Before Sarah became a prophetess, her name was originally Sarai. But, when Sarah became a prophetess, Hashem changed her name to Sarah meaning "*princess*." Don't you love the idea of officially being called "*princess*"?

The most important reason however why I would love to be Sarah is because of the role she played as the first Jewish woman and what it teaches all of us. Before Abraham and Sarah became parents, their names were Abram and Sarai. By being brave, patient and embracing her skills as a prophetess, Sarai became Sarah, and the leader of all Jewish women.

I was born on 22 Cheshvan. On my birthday, the parasha is Chayei Sarah which is about Sarah's death. The parasha is sad because Sarah dies, and Isaac is devastated by the loss of his mother. But the parasha ends with Isaac marrying and continuing the great Jewish nation that Sarah had started.

So, if you could be anyone in the Torah who would it be?