

# A woman of valor, who can find her?

*Eshet chayil mi yimtza*

אִשֶׁת-חַיִּל מִי יִמְצָא



Sara Hurwitz completed full rabbinic training only to have her title of Rabba stripped from her weeks later. The repositioning came by way of pressure from the Rabbinic Council of America who made an official statement rejecting the ordination of women and the recognition of women as members of the Orthodox rabbinate.

*She opens her mouth in wisdom.*

פִּיהָ פִּתְחָהּ בְּחָכְמָה

*Piha patchah v'chochma*



In 1997, Gail Billig became the first female president of an Orthodox synagogue. Ten years later, the National Council of Young Israel ruled that women and converts are not permitted to be presidents of their synagogues.

*Many women have excelled, but you surpass them all.*

רַבּוֹת בָּנוֹת עָשׂוּ חַיִּל וְאַף עָלִית עַל-כָּלֵנָה

*Rabot banot asu chayil v'at alit al kulanah*



On January 5 and July 12, 2010, the police fingerprinted Anat Hoffman, a leader of the group Women of the Wall, and threatened her with a felony charge. Women of the Wall have assembled for over twenty years at the Western Wall to read Torah, sing, and pray. The women who gather are harassed, arrested, and assaulted.



*Strength and dignity are her garb.*

עֲזָ וְהָדָר לְבוּשָׁהּ

*Oz v'hadar l'vushah*

You can find her...

...locked out of the rabbinate.

...barred from synagogue leadership.

...in handcuffs.

Text study questions:

וַתִּשְׂחַק לְיוֹם אַחֲרוֹן  
*Vatischak l'yom acharon*  
*She laughs at future days*

1. **What does pushing down women leaders mean for Judaism's future?**

גְּמַלְתָּהּ טוֹב וְלֹא-רָע כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ  
*G'malathu tov v'lo ra kol y'mei chayeiha*  
*She does only good, no harm, all the days of her life*

2. **When a woman is a model of *derech erez* and *derech torah*, communal and religious virtue, why do you silence her?**

וַיְהִלְלוּהָ בַשְּׁעָרִים מַעֲשֶׂיהָ  
*Vihal'luha vash'arim ma'aseha*  
*May her deeds be praised at the gates*

3. **Is a community that doesn't value women's work doing right by Judaism?**

וְרַחֵק מִפְּנִינִים מְכָרָה  
*V'rachok mip'ninim michrah*  
*Her value is beyond pearls.*

4. **If her value is so great, what are you afraid of?**

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**Give her credit for the fruit of her labors.**

*Tinu lah mipri yadeha*

תְּנוּ-לָהּ מִפְּרֵי יָדֶיהָ



Sexism is a Sin.

**Jewish Women Watching**

[www.jewishwomenwatching.com](http://www.jewishwomenwatching.com)