

“Give me children – otherwise I am dead.” Yaakov's anger flared up at Rachel, and he said, “Am I instead of G-d?” (30:1,2)

Ramban says that, undoubtedly, Yaakov *Avinu* prayed for Rachel *Imeinu*. He admonished her for wrongly implying that a *tzaddik*, righteous person, has the power to “coerce” Hashem to respond to his wish. Thus, when Rachel saw that relying on Yaakov's prayer was not an option, she prayed herself to the One Who listens and responds – Hashem.

The *Avnei Nezer* of Sochatchov was a brilliant *Gaon* who hardly ever left his home. He was constantly involved in Torah – either studying or teaching. One day he announced to his students that he was attending the *Bris* of the son of a simple tailor who had asked him to serve as *sandek*, hold the infant during the circumcision. When asked why he was making such an exception, he explained, “This Jew had sanctified the Name of Heaven. Thus, he deserves that I attend the celebration. He came to me and said, ‘Fifteen years have passed since my wedding, and Hashem has helped me. Now I am fortunate to usher my son into the covenant of Avraham *Avinu*. I ask the venerable *Rebbe* to honor our *simchah!*’

“When I heard these words I decided that I must attend. How often have I heard individuals say, ‘I was helped in Gur; I was helped in Kotzk; I was helped in Radzmin’? I never hear a person declare, ‘I was helped by Hashem!’ Finally, today, I hear the tailor announce, ‘Hashem has helped me!’ I must attend the *simchah* of a Jew who attributes salvation to its true Source.”