

In the name of the F of the S and the HS. A wise man once said, when you really like someone, you find out what makes them laugh, but you can never truly love someone, until you find out what makes them cry. Hollywood or Bollywood's love stories got romance, intrigue, conflict, chase scenes, & love. just as in our story we have an incredible plot, for this season of Valentine's Day. In our story Jacob arrived at a well, and saw a gorgeous, most beautiful, stunning looking, young girl of his dreams, called Rachel, he could not control his heartbeat, the Hebrew text of the Bible says, that Rachel was "beautiful of face" and "beautiful of figure." And let me tell you, it was love at first sight. He was smitten by Rachel's awesome beauty. Cupid had shot an arrow right through that boy's heart. Through all the trials and tribulations, he loved that girl until the day he died. Now that's a Valentine Story right there in the Bible. Jacob went right over and kissed Rachel, well that boy, didn't waste any time, it turns out that Rachel is Jacob's cousin. His uncle Laban opens the full doors of Bed-ouin hospitality to his long-lost nephew. And Jacob starts helping out on the farm.

After a month, Laban comes to him and says, "Even if you are my nephew, I can't let you go on, working for me without pay. Tell me what I should pay you." Well, since the first day he arrived, Jacob has only, one thing on his mind: his beloved Rachel. He has been thinking about her day and night. just imagine if they had smart phones, they would send love hearts, and kisses to each other all the time. Rachel is the personification of all his hopes and dreams. So he says, to Laban, "I will work for you for seven years. Just give me your daughter Rachel." Jacob was so in love, that those seven years, seemed like only 7 days to him.

And finally, the day of his dreams arrived. So he says to Laban, "My time of service for Rachel is completed. I want to get married now." So they had Middle Eastern Style, big fat wedding celebration. And like the Be-douin culture, late in the night, the bride, in her big thick veil, is brought to the husband, and they spend their wedding night together. This is, without a doubt, the happiest moment in Jacob's life. But, in the morning, when Jacob wakes up, in the daylight, he realises, that he has been deceived and married to Leah! He had the shock of his life. By the way, she was a total contrast to gorgeous Rachel, Leah's Hebrew description says, "It made your eyes tired, and sore, just to look at her!" What a tragedy it was not getting, the beautiful Rachel the desire, and dream girl of his heart, but He is married to Leah! Jacob might have shouted at Laban in his anger, "What have you done?!" I have worked these seven years, for Rachel, the love of my heart, and you have deceived me! You have broken my heart. How could you do this? Laban said to him, in our culture, we marry off, the oldest daughter first, now if you are willing to work for me, another seven years, and I will give you Rachel also. So Jacob was forced to work for another seven years, because, he loved his sweetheart Rachel so passionately, that he couldn't live without her.

I tell you this is a real love story. How many men would give fourteen years of their life just to marry the woman of their dreams? Finally, after all these years, Jacob and Rachel lived together at last, Happily, ever after. Real life seldom turns out like that. I really feel sorry for both, Rachel and Leah. They were never happy, and they were so jealous of each other. Leah was jealous of Rachel, because Jacob loved her so much. Rachel was jealous of Leah, because she had 10 Sons but Rachel had none, for a long time. One writer calls their story "Desperate Housewives." Well, what an epic story full of drama, intrigue, romance and conflict.

We learn that romantic love is a powerful and a wonderful gift from God. In this story, we see the power of a dream and romantic love. And the pain of a dream that is lost, the pain of a broken heart, disappointment and discouragement. Eventually, old and grey Jacob, the cheater, the red-hot lover, became father of the 12 tribes of Israel, chosen and blessed by God. I wonder if we ever realised that our dreams and visions are gone & we are stuck for the rest of our life with something less satisfying than what we had dreamed of. Let's imagine, for a while, Rachel is the symbol of our dreams. Leah is

the symbol of harsh reality. Imagine waking up, and realising you're next to Leah, feeling great disappointment. Most of us may have similar experience at some point. If you are that person today, still dissatisfied, disappointed and discouraged, in life, do not despair. God still has a plan to bless you, in ways you haven't imagined yet. Well, you may be angry and upset, just seek the, comfort of the king of Love and he will fulfil your heart's desire, Jesus is the lover of your soul, who gave his life for you, on the cross, now your soul mate Jesus invites you to be His Valentine and spend some quality time with Him, express your Love in a positive response as we have a few moments of silent reflection