

Treasure did it again! She asked, and how do we refuse? Well, actually I thought I did but my friend knew what to do. She listened. She heard me say that I have no idea what the context of this portion really meant. That is when she probably figured that it was worth asking me again.

When we are able, Treasure and I take walks and for some reason, the walks go fast. We get to our destination without pain but with all that it takes to be a good friend.

You may ask what this has to do with the Haftorah today.

This is a story about Hannah who, more than anything, wanted children and had trouble conceiving. Even though her husband kindly expressed his admiration of her and the fact that it was okay if she did not give birth, that wasn't enough.

Back in those days, as it always has been, people want to feel worthwhile and at that time, giving birth gave a woman more than just an heir; it gave her purpose.

Today, we know better. Keeping politics out of it, (!), we get to choose who we want to be, to accomplish goals - and having children is not the only way.

Now back to our story.

Hannah's husband also had another wife and together they had children. This other wife was no help to Hannah's sorrow as she taunted Hannah for her inability, so to speak.

Thus, all Hannah could do was pray. In a final scene, we see her silently praying and being observed by Eli the priest. When he questions and listens to her, he then gives his blessing that her wishes come true - an act that in itself validates her actions.

It is after this when she conceives.

We might think it was the prayer - but we should think again.

Perhaps it was the support of another.

This story is remindful of how we all need someone to listen - to hear us - to understand our needs.

We all need support in some way or another but mostly

Just to listen.