

May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.

A reading from the Book of Tobit

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house
of Raguel and greeted him.
Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah,
shedding tears of joy.

But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight,
he was grieved and wept aloud.
He said to Tobiah:
“My child, God bless you!
You are the son of a noble and good father.
But what a terrible misfortune
that such a righteous and charitable man
should be afflicted with blindness!”

He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.
His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;
and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.
Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock
and gave them a cordial reception.

When they had bathed and reclined to eat,
Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah,
ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”

Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy:
“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,
for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah
than you, brother.

Besides, not even I have the right
to give her to anyone but you,
because you are my closest relative.

But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.
I have given her in marriage to seven men,
all of whom were kinsmen of ours,
and all died on the very night they approached her.

But now, son, eat and drink.
I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”
Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing
until you set aside what belongs to me.”
Raguel said to him: “I will do it.
She is yours according to the decree
of the Book of Moses. Your marriage to her
has been decided in heaven!

Take your kinswoman, from now on you are her love,
and she is your beloved.
She is yours today and ever after.
And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven
prosper you both.
May he grant you mercy and peace.”

Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him.
He took her by the hand
and gave her to Tobiah with the words:
“Take her according to the law.
According to the decree written in the Book of Moses
she is your wife. Take her and
bring her back safely to your father.

And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity.”

He then called her mother
and told her to bring a scroll,
So that he might draw up a marriage contract
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.

Her mother brought the scroll,
and he drew up the contract,
to which they affixed their seal.

Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.