

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

Wrestling and Blessing | Erica Brown | December 9, 2021



Alexander Louis Leloir, "Jacob Wrestling with an Angel" (1865)
Musee des Beaux-Arts, Clermont-Ferrand

Genesis 32:25-29

וַיִּנְתֵּר יַעֲקֹב לְבָדּוֹ וַיִּאָּבֶק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֹלֹת הַשָּׁחַר:

וַיֵּרָא כִּי לֹא יָכֹל לָוּ וַיִּגַע בְּכַף־יָרְכוֹ וַתִּקַּעל פַּי־גֵּרָה וַיַּעֲלֹב בְּהֶאָבְקוֹ עִמּוֹ:

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלַחֲנִי כִּי עָלָה הַשָּׁחַר וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁלְּחֶךָּ כִּי אִם־בְּרַכְתָּנִי:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מַה־שְּׁמֶךָ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב:

וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יַעֲקֹב יֹאמֶר עוֹד שְׁמֶךָ כִּי אִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־שָׁרִיתָ עִם־אֱלֹהִים וְעַם־אֲנָשִׁים וַתִּכָּל:

Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he wrenched Jacob's hip at its socket, so that the socket of his hip was strained as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for dawn is breaking." But he answered, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." Said the other, "What is your name?"

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He replied, “Jacob.” Said he, “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven beings divine and human, and have prevailed.”

Reflective Question

What is the relationship of suffering and blessing in your life?

Leadership Challenge

Think of a moment in your leadership where you deeply wrestled and you felt alone. Who do you know who is wrestling in leadership and would appreciate your support right now?

