



モリアのアブラハムとイサク

Abraham and Isaac in Moriah

by Nagamitz Kazuhiro

Satan : Please allow me to try your favorite righteous Abraham. I bet I can cause him to do an unrighteous thing, if you will only allow me to try.

God : Do not let Abraham die.

Satan : Certainly not.

God : Do not even hurt him.

Satan : Certainly not.

God : What if you lose?

Satan : I shall not show up in your presence again.

God : Go and try Abraham.

Satan : Surely.

God : Remember that you shall not harm Abraham.

Satan : You are so suspicious.

God : You cannot be trusted.

Satan : How sad to hear it!

God : You seduced Adam and Eve.

Satan : Ah, and that brought about my banishment from the Garden; how I regret that!

God : Then, why do you try Abraham now?

Satan : From jealousy, which is my nature.

God : That is my nature too.

Satan : I am jealous of you. But you are not. ...Can I use your voice when I try Abraham? I shall command him to sacrifice Isaac his son to you to prove his faith to you.

God : Are you trying to test me also? I' ve never thought of such an evil command. Either way he will be unrighteous.

Satan : I am only asking you to let me use your voice for a while. I won' t touch Abraham or his son.

God : Never! You shall not use my voice!

Satan : Certainly.

Upon this, Satan went and tried Abraham. He imitated God's voice, and called, "Abraham." Abraham thought he heard God' s voice and promptly answered, "Here I am." Then Satan said to Abraham, "Take your child, Isaac, your most beloved one, to the land of Moriah, and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

After spending a sleepless night, Abraham got up early in the morning and cut enough wood for the burnt offering. He loaded his donkey with the wood and food. Taking with him two of his young servants as well as his son Isaac, he set out for the place Satan had indicated. The three boys, being fond of each other, were happy and never tired of the trip.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the mountain in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and Isaac go over there. We will worship and then come back to you. If perchance you do not see us by sunset, come to us with

the donkey. I will blaze our way.”

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering off the donkey and placed it on Isaac, and he himself carried a flint stone and a knife. He went into the mountain path without looking back. Isaac playfully said “adieu” to his friends and followed his father.

When his father stopped to rest by a small pool, Isaac put the wood down and said, “Father.”

“Yes, Isaac?” answered Abraham.

“We have a flint stone and wood and a knife, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” asked Isaac. “Shouldn’ t we have brought one from our house?”

Abraham replied without looking at his son, “Don’ t worry, Isaac. God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.”

Now, Isaac stopped saying anything. The two continued to go up and they were silent all the way, the father never looking back, and the son never coming close to his father.

When they reached the place Satan had told, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his trembling hand and took the knife to slay his son. All the while Abraham was silent and expressionless. Isaac’ s face had lost color. He began to hiccup. His father looked up toward the heaven with his both hands holding the handle of the knife in a backhand grip with its tip end just above the neck of the boy.

Abraham raised the knife.

Then, Isaac cried out, “My God, (*hick*) help me! (*Hick*), my father will kill me!”

This caused Abraham’ s hands to tremble violently and he dropped the knife and it hit Isaac’ s left cheek and bounced off, causing the boy unconscious.

Then, a voice rang in the ears of Abraham, “Abraham! Abraham!”

Abraham answered with a ghostlike voice, “Here I am.”

“Do not lay a hand on Isaac. Do not even touch him.”

Abraham broke down to the ground in tears. He cried bitterly, hitting his head repeatedly on the hard ground. He had planned to cut his own throat after cutting Isaac's.

After a while Abraham heard a noise behind him, and he lifted his bleeding forehead, and his streaming eyes dimly saw a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. He went over and killed the ram with the knife. He removed his son from the wood, and put the body of the ram on it and made fire with the flint stone. A snake sneaked away from the wood.

End

Jeremiah 19:5 (NEB):

They have built shrines to Baal, where they burn their sons as whole-offerings to Baal. It was no command of mine; I never spoke of it.

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