

## CHAPTER NINE

### A PARTING KISS, A TUMULTUOUS FALL, AND A CURSE

*Why Rus and Orpah Embarked on  
Dramatically Different Paths*

**W**ith a single stone shot from Dovid's slingshot, the great giant Goliath fell to the ground. His death was much more than just the vanquishing of the enemy; it represented the culmination of Rus' decision to join the Jewish people, and her half-sister Orpah's decision to turn away.

Rus and Orpah were both daughters of Eglon the king of Moav. Despite his enmity of the Jewish people, he had stood up to honor the Name of Hashem in the final moments of his life. Subsequently, his two daughters rebelled against the immorality and cruelty of their nation, as they turned towards Hashem and displayed acts of kindness.

After her husband and sons died, Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to Moav. Rus refused and decided to cleave to her mother-in-law instead. From her decision came Dovid.

Orpah accepted Naomi's words. As her name hints, she revealed the *oref* – back of her neck – to Naomi in disrespect as she turned away.

Orpah returned to the immorality of her roots. Appropriately, from her came Goliath who would curse Hashem. Rashi says that his name derives from the words *Giloy Panim Lifnei Hashem* – he was brazen in front of G-d.

How did the paths of Rus and Orpah diverge so sharply and lead to an epic battle between their descendants? The answer lies in The Kiss. Hashem said, "let the sons of the one who was kissed, come and fall by the hands of the sons of the one who cleaved."

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*Excerpted from  
The Roots Of Royalty:  
Following the Line of Dovid HaMelech from the Beginning of Time*

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The Ben Ish Chai says that Naomi intentionally kissed Orpah before she returned to her life of immorality in Moav to suck out the final vestiges of goodness which remained in her from her husband Kilyon.

When the letters of the name Orpah are rearranged, they spell *Po Rah* – here is only evil. Orpah was left with only her immoral roots.

When Dovid killed Goliath, this was the ultimate outcome of Orpah's turning away from Naomi. She turned her neck, and Goliath fell forward, landing at Dovid's feet, with the *back of his neck* exposed.

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