

WOMEN IN JUDIASM

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“You have the power to make the world a better place from the inside.” These slightly enigmatic words that I remember from my first Jewish studies teacher at King David Linksfield helped shape my life as a Jewish woman. As I travel through life, I constantly learn what it means to “change the world from the inside”. I believe that my teacher was teaching us that one does not have to be overt and outspoken to make a difference. True feminine power comes from inner courage, faith and love. With those inner attributes, a woman can make a sincere and meaningful difference in one’s own life and the lives of others.

The greatest example of this came from my daughter, Liora. Being my only daughter, I always hoped that she would be close by my side for my whole life. However, unknowingly, I had passed on the lesson of “changing the world from the inside” to her.

Liora fell in love towards the end of matric - twice. She fell in love with her husband-to-be, Idan, and with the Land of Israel. Despite the enormous sacrifice of leaving the protective bubble of her South African family as an 18-year old, Liora made Aliya with a mind of faith and a heart of love.

I was very sad that Liora would not live near me as I grow older. Being the only daughter amongst my three sons, Gidon, Akiva and David, she was my fashion advisor, confidant and personal hair and make-up artist! My husband, Jonathan was going to have to step up big time to the fashion advice forum. Jonathan and I have known each other since Std 2 in Mrs Hirsh’s class at KD Linksfield where we were appointed to be the Reading Laboratory monitors. We celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary this year.

Three years later, as I stood under her Chuppa in the beautiful mountains of Judea, where our matriarchs had set up their homes in Biblical times, where many Jewish martyrs had died for their Judaism, I saw so clearly that Liora was linking us and her future descendants to the place where Hashem wants all Jews to ultimately live.

Idan, Liora and Gidon are currently in Israel. They are neither famous nor trailblazers, but they have their mother’s (and father’s) full blessing and desire for them to have “wings” to follow in the footsteps of our Matriarchs who quietly moulded a path and a future for their descendants.