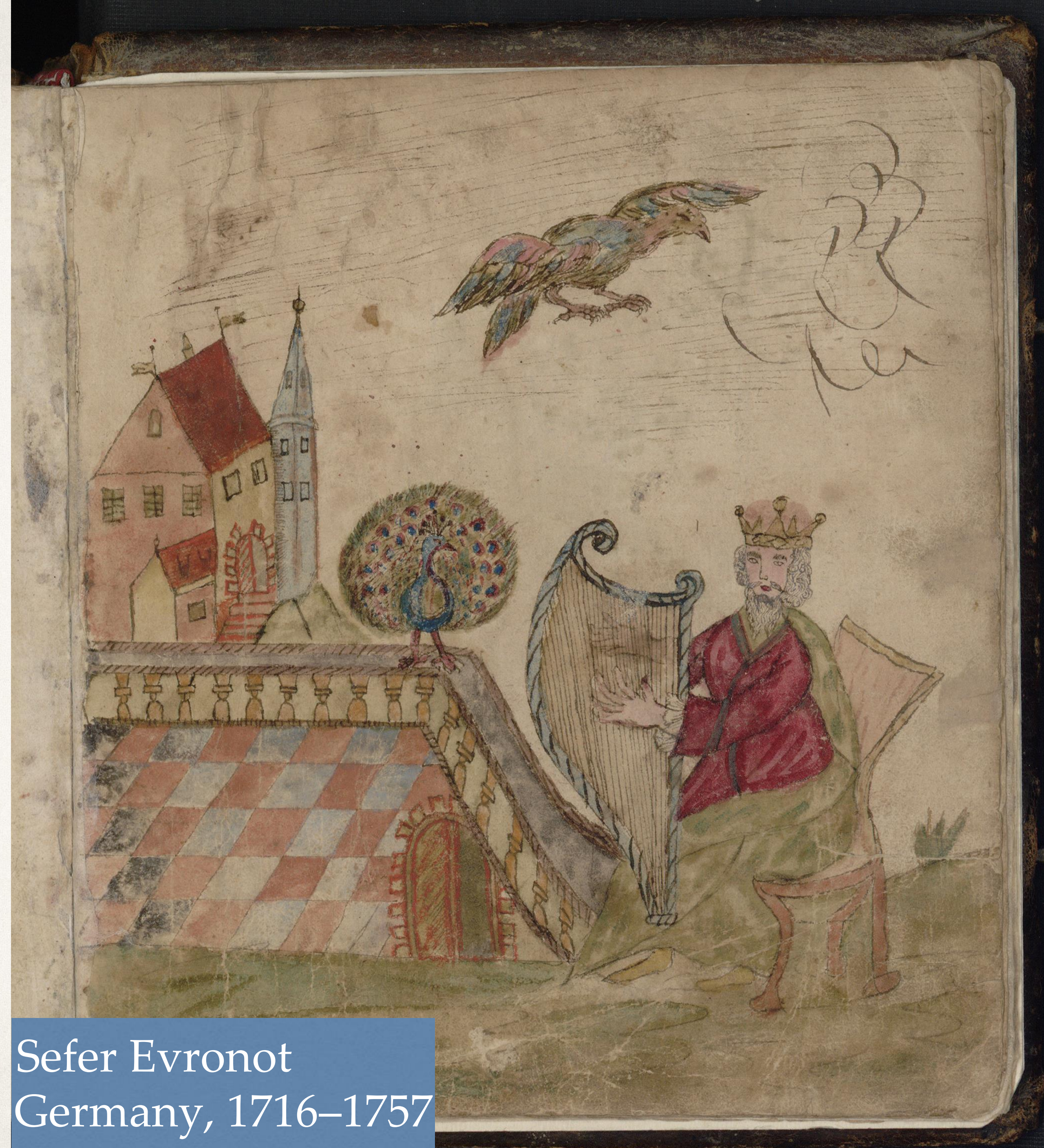


EDJC 2024 Family

The National Library of Israel's proposed exhibition concept

Considerations

- ❖ Relevance
- ❖ Inclusivity
- ❖ Variety
- ❖ Collections
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Context
- ❖ Return to sources



Sefer Evronot
Germany, 1716–1757

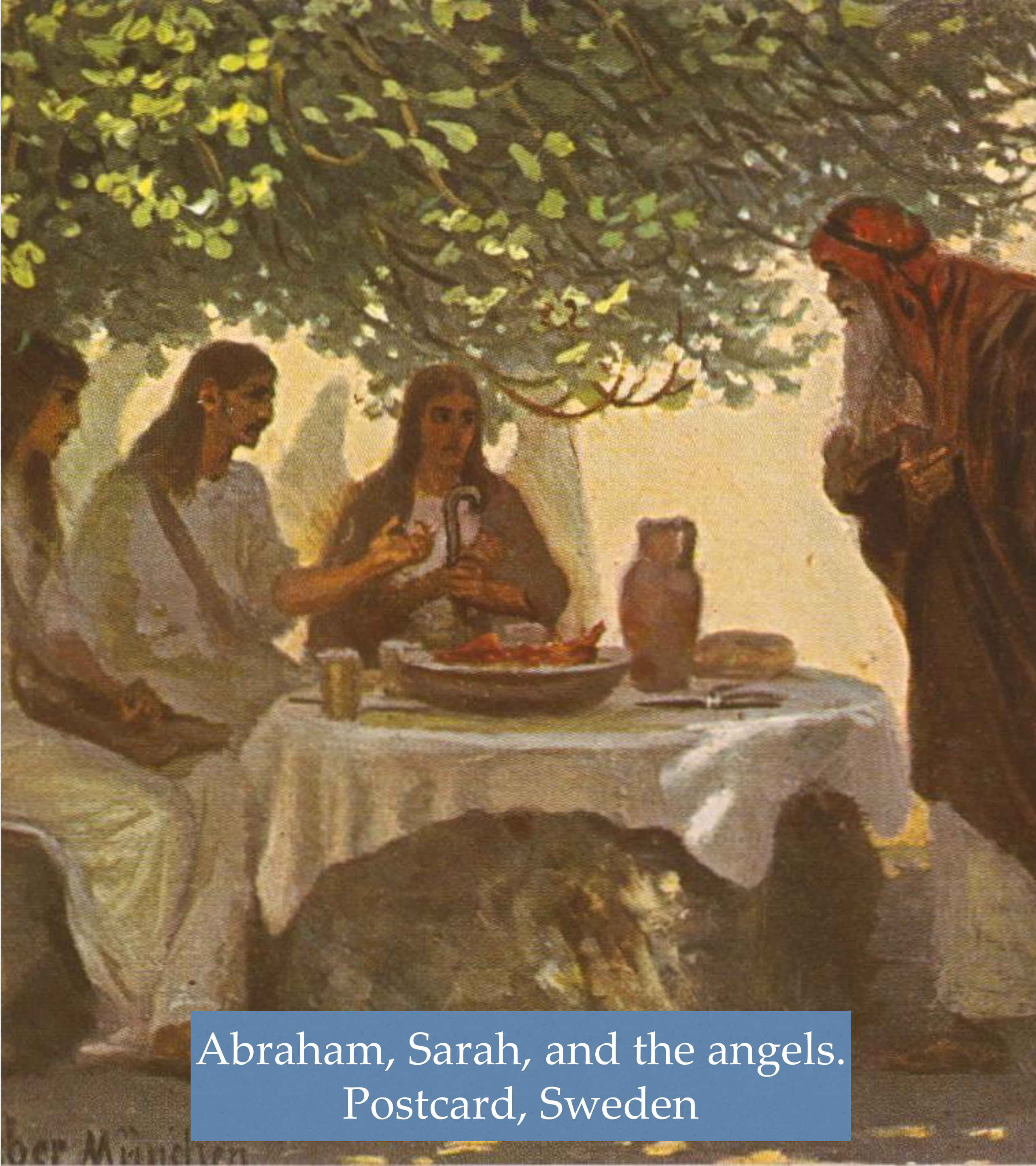
Guiding questions

- ❖ What kinds of families exist in Jewish culture, and what is their life like?
- ❖ How are family values reflected in Jewish culture?
- ❖ What, if anything, is unique to Jewish families?
- ❖ How is Jewish family life reflected in our heritage?
- ❖ What does our canon have to say about families, that is relevant today?

Family values

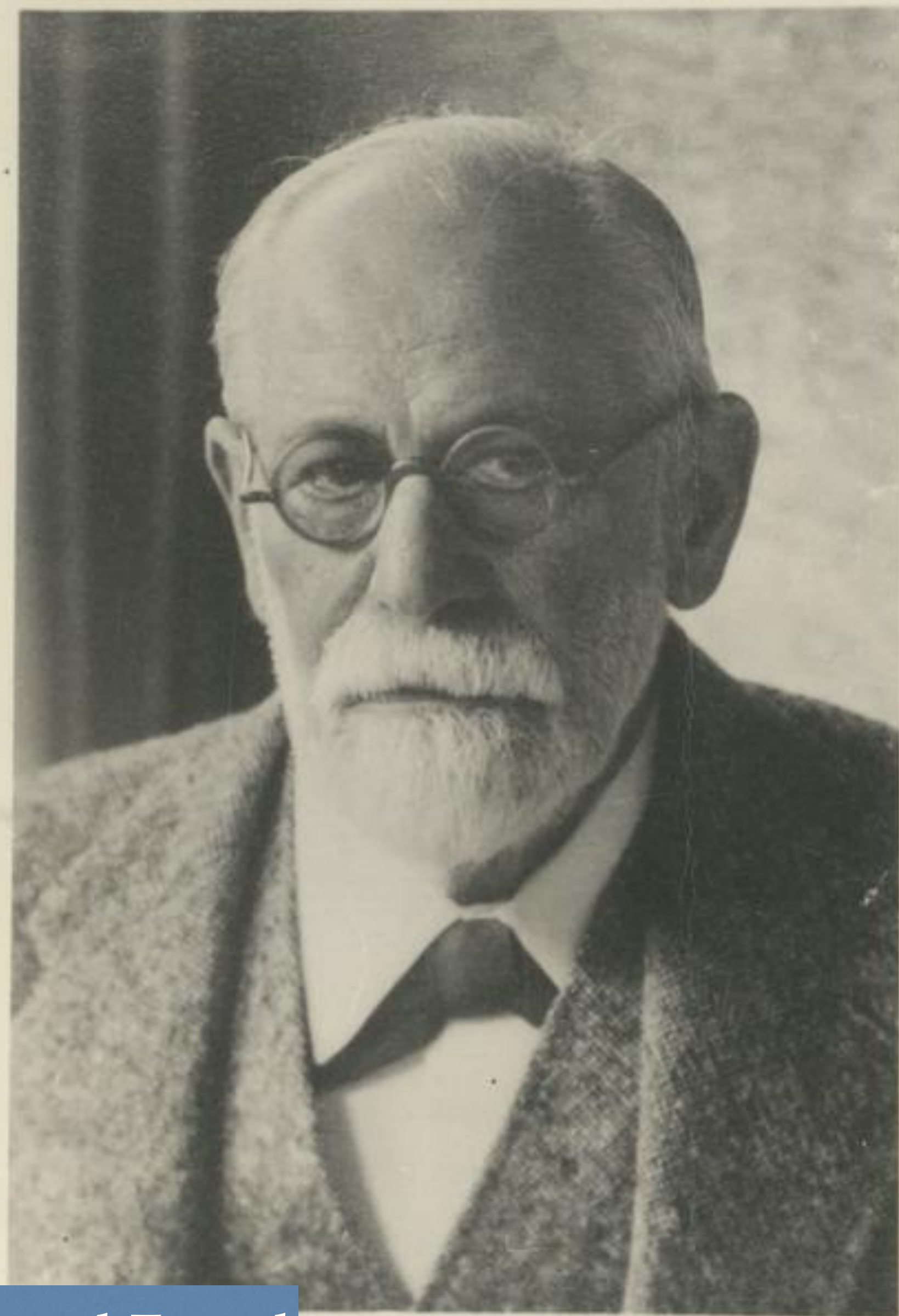
- ❖ The families that exist in our canon
- ❖ What Jewish religion teaches about family
- ❖ The new family (other types of family unit)
- ❖ Family psychology

Abraham, Sarah, and the angels.
Postcard, Sweden



Families that changed Jewish history

- ❖ The Hasmoneans
- ❖ The Luzzatos
- ❖ The Freuds
- ❖ The Soloveitchiks
- ❖ The Ibn Tibbons
- ❖ The Ben Yehudas...

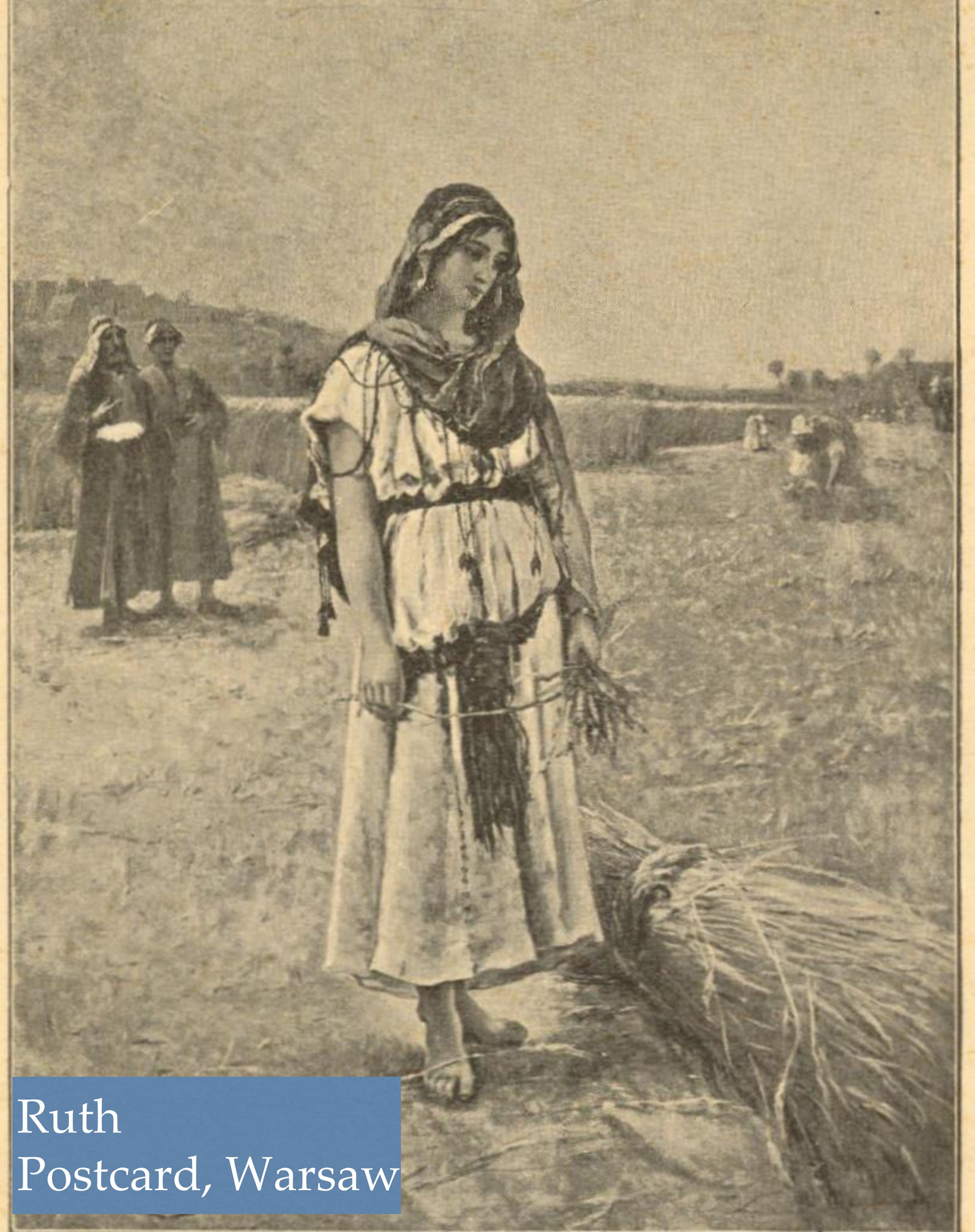


Sigmund Freud
Photo, 1930

Sigmund Freud

Chosen families

- ❖ Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” (Ruth 1:16–17)
- ❖ Communities
- ❖ Friendships



Ruth
Postcard, Warsaw



Klyahandler family archive.
Photo by Mikhail Heifetz, 1996

Family history

- ❖ Photo albums
- ❖ Family archives
- ❖ Communal registers
- ❖ Letters
- ❖ Diaries
- ❖ Official documentation

Making families

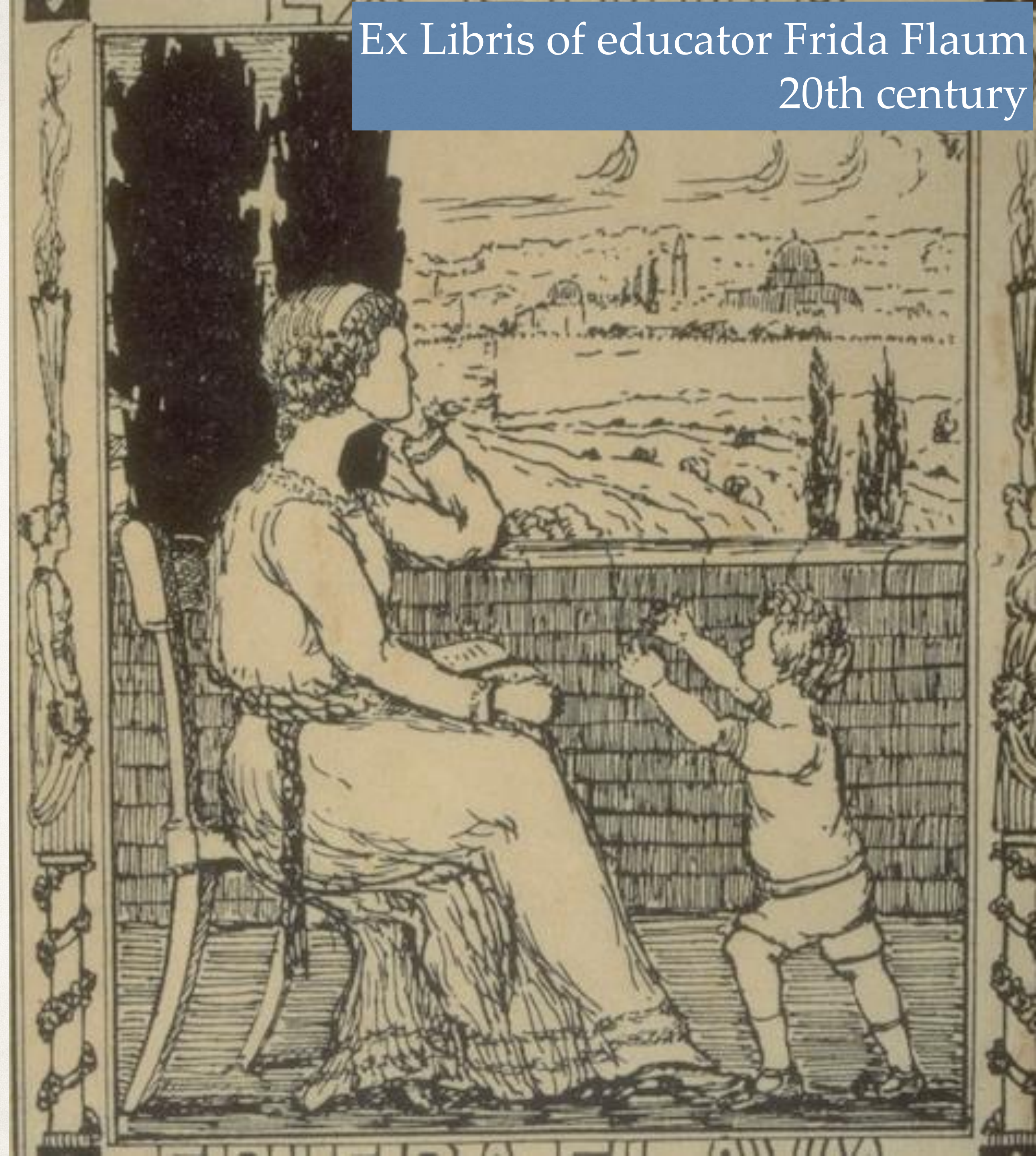
- ❖ Love in Jewish culture
- ❖ Wedding rituals
- ❖ Marital contracts
- ❖ Dating and matchmaking

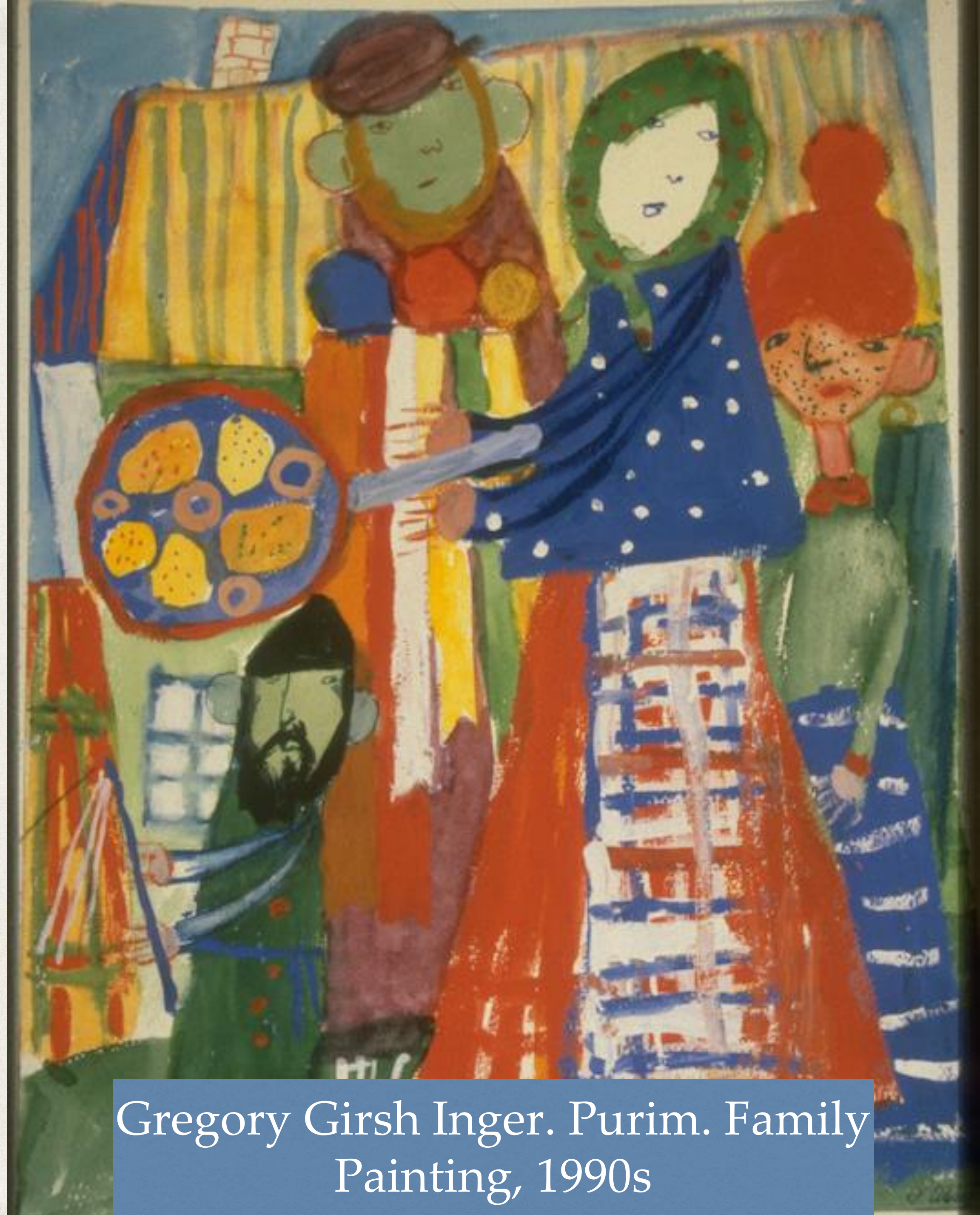
Groom's blessing
Siddur, Italy, 15th century



Parents and children

- ❖ “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12)
- ❖ “These words I am commanding you today <...> and you shall teach them diligently to your children” (Deuteronomy 6:7)
- ❖ Intergenerational relationships
- ❖ Rituals around birth and naming
- ❖ Educating children

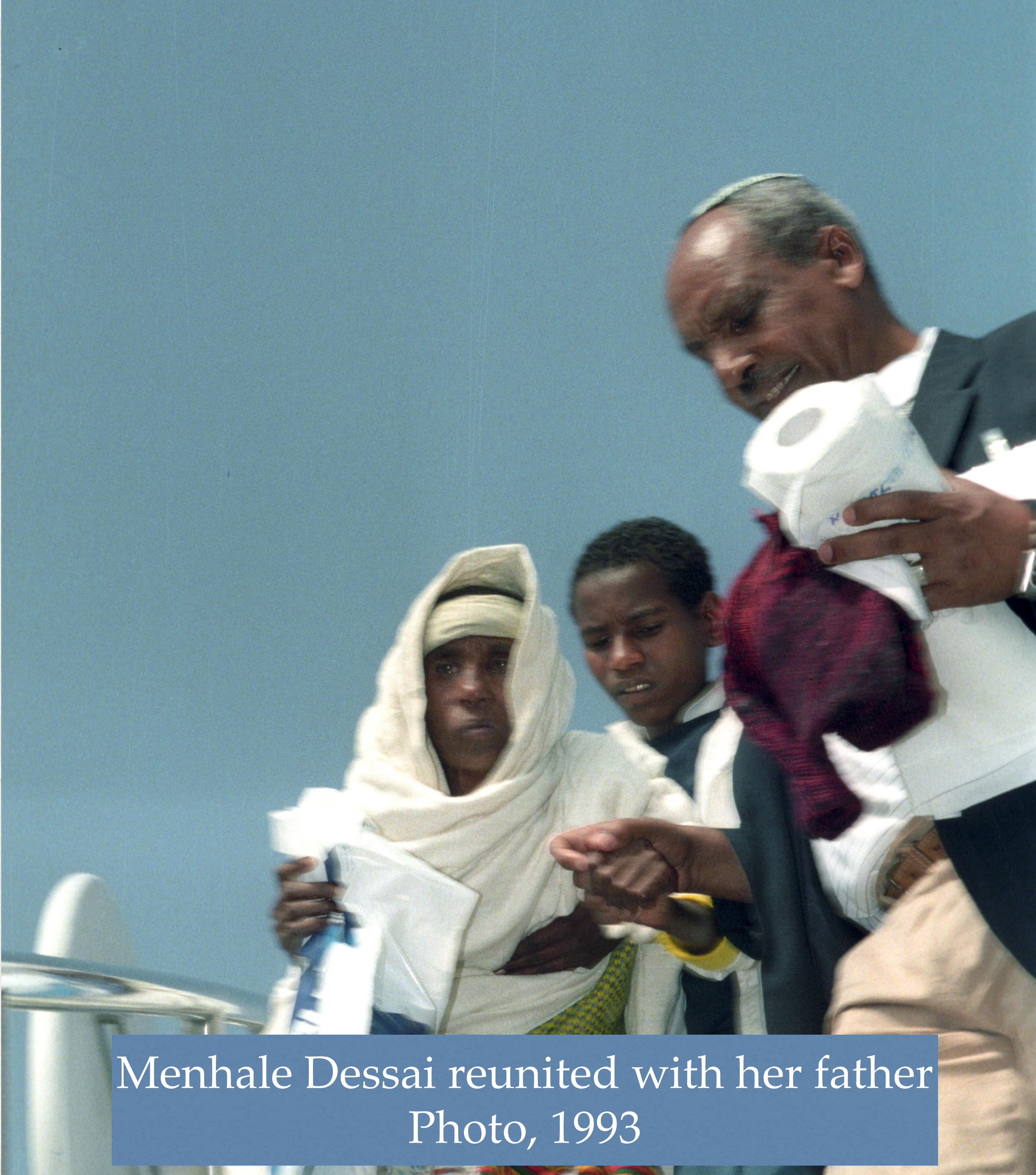




Gregory Girsh Inger. Purim. Family Painting, 1990s

Family traditions

- ❖ Afikoman
- ❖ Eliyahu cup
- ❖ Hanukkah traditions
- ❖ Purim costumes
- ❖ Sukkah decorations
- ❖ Family cookbooks
- ❖ Family prayer books



Menhale Dessai reunited with her father
Photo, 1993

Parting and reuniting

- ❖ Travelers
- ❖ Death in the family
- ❖ Divorce and separation
- ❖ Tragedies
- ❖ Reunions

Thank you!

Please reach out to us with questions / suggestions.

Olga Lempert: olga.lempert@nli.org.il

National Library of Israel website: <https://nli.org.il>

Or scan this code:



הספרייה הלאומית
المكتبة الوطنية الإسرائيلية
The National Library of Israel