

The “way of women” in Genesis: using deception in the face of superior power

12.11-13	When [Abram] was about to enter Egypt, he said to his woman Sarai , "I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance ; and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his woman'; then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you , and that my life may be spared on your account."
20.1b-2	While residing in Gerar as an alien, Abraham said of his woman Sarah, "She is my sister." And King Abimelech of Gerar sent and took Sarah.
27.6-8	Rebekah said to her son Jacob , "I heard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me game, and prepare for me savory food to eat, that I may bless you before YHWH before I die.' Now therefore, my son, obey my word as I command you...
29.20-23	So Jacob served seven years for Rachel , and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my woman that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.
31.34-35	Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle , and sat on them. Laban felt all about in the tent, but did not find them. And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me. " So he searched, but did not find the household gods.
33.12-14	Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you." But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing , are a care to me; and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."
34.24-26	And all who went out of the city gate heeded Hamor and his son Shechem; and every male was circumcised , all who went out of the gate of his city. On the third day, when they were still in pain, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city unawares, and killed all the males. They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went away.
38.13-15	When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil , wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute , for she had covered her face.
42.7	When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them.