

The woman of Tekoa's story (2 Samuel 14.4-9)

When the woman of Tekoa came to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and did obeisance, and said, "Help, O king!" The king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "Alas, I am a widow; my man is **dead**. Your servant had **two sons**, and they fought with one another in the field; there was no one to part them, and one struck the other and killed him. Now the whole family has risen against your servant. They say, 'Give up the man who struck his brother, so that we may kill him for the life of his brother whom he murdered, even if we destroy the heir as well.' Thus they would quench my one remaining ember and leave to my man neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth." Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your **house**, and I will give orders concerning you." The woman of Tekoa said to the king, "On me be the guilt, my lord the king, and on my father's **house**; let the king and his throne be guiltless."