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Ruth's Dedication

1: 6-18



Na'omi had no reason to stay in in **Mo'av**. The news that the famine that had brought the family there in the first place was over was sufficient to cause **her** to decide to return home to **Isra'el**. This led to a problem for **her daughters-in-law** that **they** faced in different ways. Orpah returned to **her** native country of **Mo'av**, but **Ruth** did the extraordinary thing and went with **Na'omi**. It brought from **Ruth** a magnificent declaration of **her** dedication.¹⁸

(art by Sarah Beth Baca: see more information on Links and Resources)

Scene One reaches its climax as **Ruth** makes **her** declaration in **1:16-17**. These verses form a chiasmic **A-B-C-B-A** literary structure.

A Don't press me to leave you or to turn back from you.

B Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.

C Your people will be my people and your God my God.

B Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.

A May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.