

# 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.<sup>18</sup>

**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.