

# ***Not Quite Right News by Mark Lee Golden***

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## **Another Bible Mystery Solved**

Ankara, Turkey

Excavation at a construction site in southern Turkey's village of Sanliurfa unexpectedly turned into an archeological dig. The find among the pottery, weapons and coins, was an unusual object which caught the quick attention of a university professor. After conferring with associates they transferred the object to a museum in Ankara, for further study.

Was the object something out of the Bible?

The book of Genesis, the start of the Bible, contains mysterious stories of ancient times. In Chapter 28, the patriarch Jacob left Canaan to escape the deadly anger of his brother Esau. Their parents, Isaac and Rebekah advised Jacob to seek out her brother Laban. He lived in the region of Paddan Aram and the village of Haran (modern day Turkey). Jacob traveled far to the north and joyfully located his relatives.

In Chapter 29, Jacob meets Uncle Laban and his two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Genesis describes that Jacob had the hots for his cousin Rachel. She was a good looking and he fell for her on day one, wanting her for his wife. She had a shapely figure, beautiful sparkling eyes, wonderful humor and an eye-catching sway when she walked.

But what of the other sister, Leah? Scholars presume that she too was a good looking, but Leah's eyes were a turn off for Jacob. The translations suggest that she had "weak, sensitive eyes; dull bleary-eyes and squinted." Perhaps she was nearsighted. And so, what of this element of mystery...until now? Why not Leah, the elder daughter?

The recent archeological discovery is the site where scholars believe Haran was located over 3,000 years ago. Diggers found a well-preserved parchment within a ceramic jar. The business document within described a dowry which includes the names Laban, Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

Proof of the accuracy of Holy Scripture?

Unearthing of a marriage document isn't unusual. But something else they dug up was. They found in a small leather pouch—a piece of thin, circular glass with a copper rim and an attached cubit long, dainty brass chain necklace.

Did Leah wear a monocle?

In the ancient manuscripts the wording used for "eyes" can be singular or plural. Perhaps, Leah had only one "weak" eye? In Jacob's desire for a pretty, lifelong companion, scholars now proposed that aside from Leah's equally good looks and fine qualities, her eye-piece was just too much for him. No doubt his future father-in-law tried to say it was "nothing" and that she was a "fine girl...hard-working, too." Side note: Italians invented eyeglasses or spectacles eight-hundred years ago—2,700 years too late for weak-eyed Leah.

Apparently, antiquity was not kind to monocle wearers and so its use ended. The modern rebirth of the monocle began in the early 1700s in Europe. Although the fictional character of Planters mascot, Mr. Peanut, wears a monocle, his salty and universal popularity is something poor Leah never had a taste of.

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!) This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.