Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women #256 pag#2011 #Vanessa L. Ochs #Jewish Publication Society, 2011 #9780827609280

"The Bogey-Beast" by Flora Annie Steel
There was once a woman who was very, very cheerful, though she had little to make her so; for she was old, and poor, and lonely. She lived in a little bit of a cottage and earned a scant living by running errands for her neighbours, getting a bite here, a sup there, as reward for her services. So she made shift to get on, and always looked as spry and. Other biblical woman receive similar nuanced tratement. Miriam, "The [Unnamed] Woman of Valor", Esther, the titular Sarah and even Job's wife are among those whose stories gain new relevance and interest under Och's able scholarship. No longer do women seem to hold a lesser place in the bible for Ochs fills in the blanks in their narratives and offers us valuable lessons for today and helps us learn their lessons - not just with our eyes and ears, but with our hearts. Read more.Â I really enjoyed the characters in Sarah Laughed and some of these women are real characters! I like the format of each chapter beginning with the scripture reference, followed by a partially hypothetical story, then a personal account by the author and finally suggestions for real life. In Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women, Vanessa Ochs gives the matriarchs a new life, using her own reinterpretations of the biblical text.Â Thus empowered by Tamar, Ochs was able to write the stories in this book. The back cover tells us that "by learning about the gifts of these ancient women, you'll discover exhilarating ways to embrace your own personal gifts and gain fresh insight into: finding your inner wisdom, speaking your true self, being a good friend, maintaining romantic partnerships, raising a family, feeling blessed with a life well lived, and much more!" 1. Contexts and Stories of the Aging
My ninety-four-year-old father had called us all for a family meeting during Christmas 2015. He lives in a farm with his caretaker, about a kilometer away from one of my brotherâ€™s homes.Â For women in the biblical patriarchal society to be widowed almost always amounted to losing access to social security, including access to inheritance, unless one had a male heir. The stories of Naomi and Ruth testify to this effect. These two had lost their husbands, but because they did not have sons they could not access the inheritance of their spouses until they organized a relative (Boaz) to marry Ruth (Ruth 4:1-11). Class will also need to be equally featured in reading the Bible for concerns of aging and older persons.