

New Eyes

BY RABBI DAVID WOLPE

Abraham's first reported words to Sarah in the Bible are "Now I know you are beautiful." Sarah is already at an advanced age. Was she not beautiful before?

Moses passes before the burning bush. The Bible reports not that the bush began to burn, but it had been burning. Had no one seen it before?

The world does not always change with knowledge. The world always changes when we acknowledge. Suddenly a phenomenon, a person, a feature of the world, becomes real. It existed before, of course, but we had not eyes to see. Revelations are less about new information than about renewed appreciation.

The Amidah prayer thanks God for the miracles that are daily with us. Eyes that are closed can block out the sun. Hearts that are closed can block out another person. Sarah had been beautiful since her youth; the bush had been burning since the beginning of time. What marvels do we miss in our haste, our callousness and our self-involvement? "They have eyes," wrote the Psalmist, "but they do not see". (Ps. 135:16) Resolve today, to look again at something or someone you know well. Renew your vision. Miracles await.