

To Be a Sacrifice Happily: Jephthah's Daughter Seila in Pseudo-Philo's *Liber Antiquitatum Biblicarum*

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Jephthah's daughter Seila (unnamed in ch. 11 of *Judges*), upon learning that her father must sacrifice her because of his rash vow, expresses her fear that her death will not be acceptable to God (40.3). The exact nature of her fear becomes clear, first, if one interprets the clause “quia...pater meus” as providing the reason why “timeo...animam meam” and, second, if one follows Jacobson's emendation of the passage “et si...in sacrificium.” Her fears arise from her belief that neither the “sacrificer” nor the “sacrificed” should be forced to do so, but should do so happily and voluntarily. However, one learns from God's words that the latter's volition is more important to God's acceptance of the sacrificed person's soul. As to the two *ut*-clauses in Seila's dirge (40.5) —interpretations of which vary greatly among translators—it would be correct to interpret them as being equivalent to an “accusative plus infinitive” form and thus regard them as her expression of her happy desire to be a sacrifice.