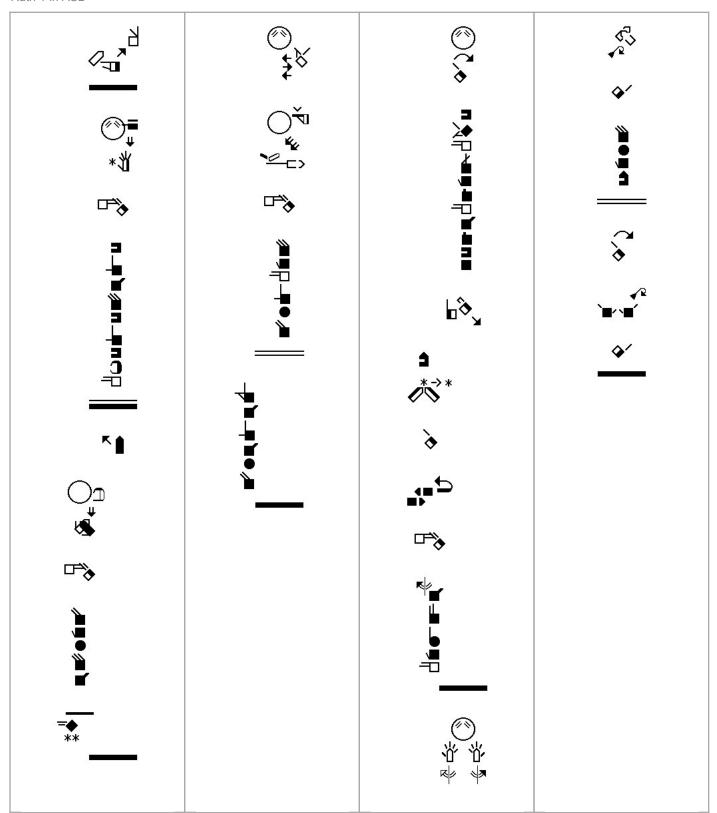
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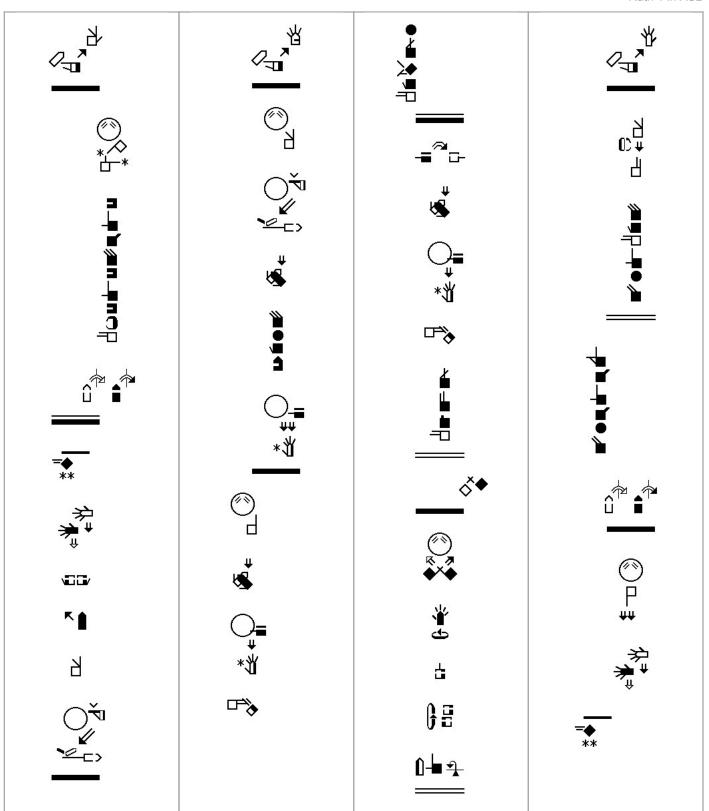
Book of Ruth Chapter 1. In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him.

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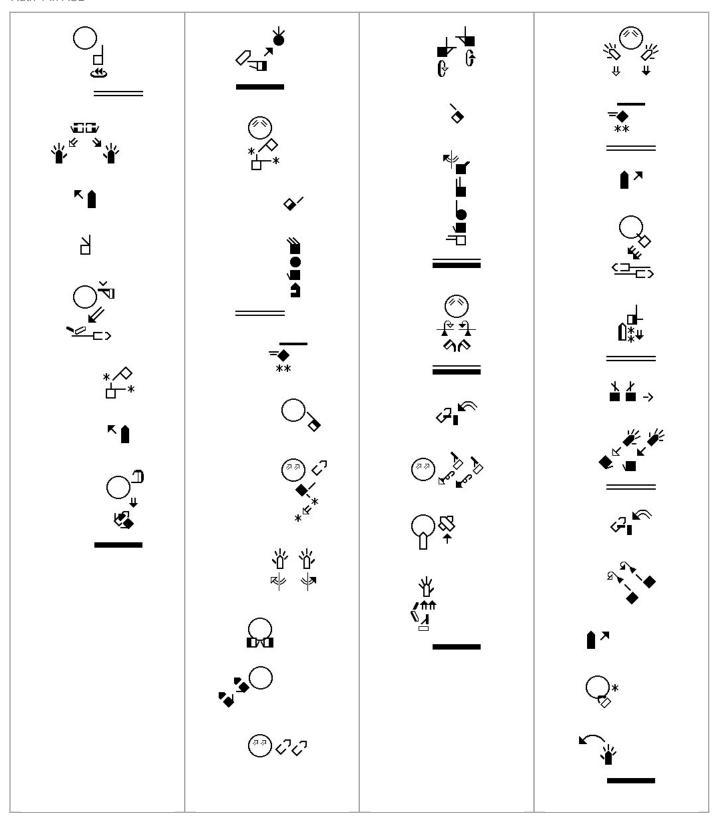


Verse 2. The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

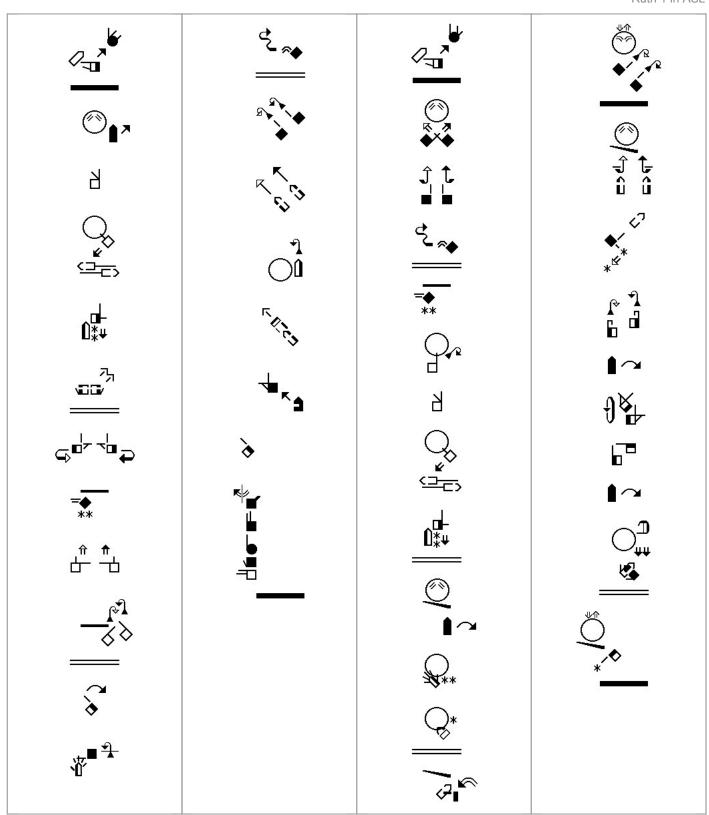


Verse 3. Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. Verse 4. The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, Verse 5. both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi

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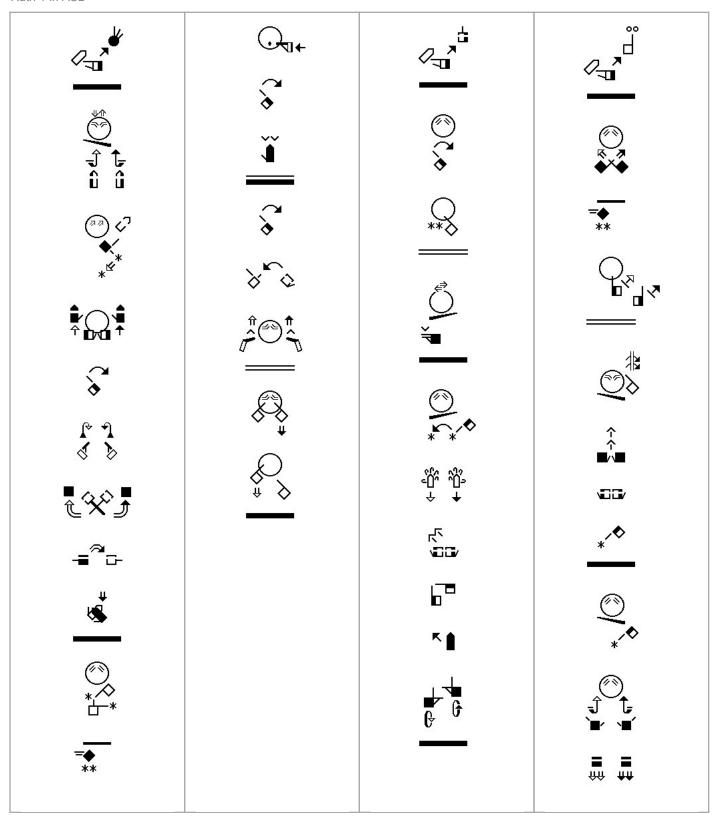


alone, without her two sons or her husband. Verse 6. Then Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland.



Verse 7. With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah. Verse 8. But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me.

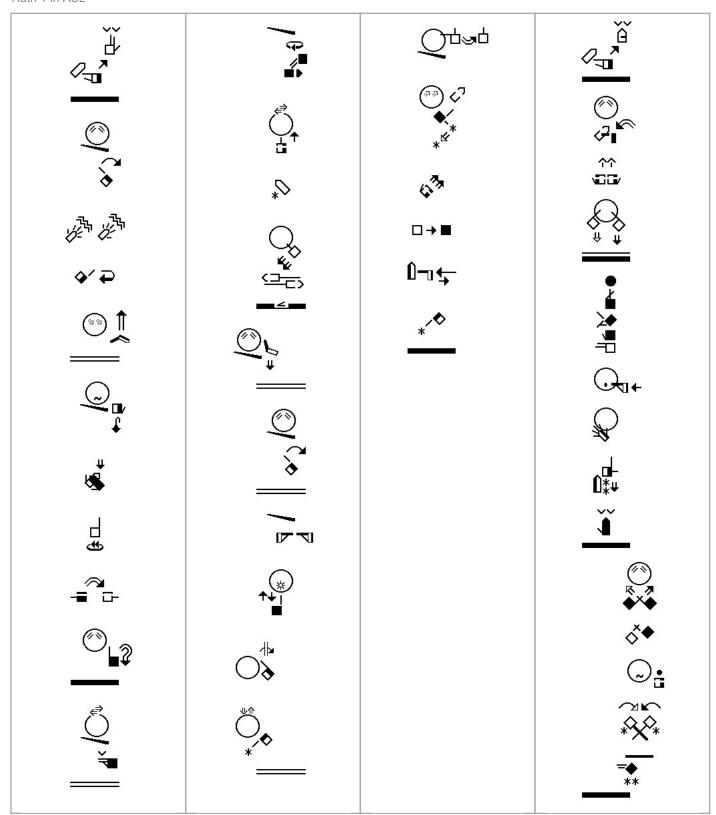
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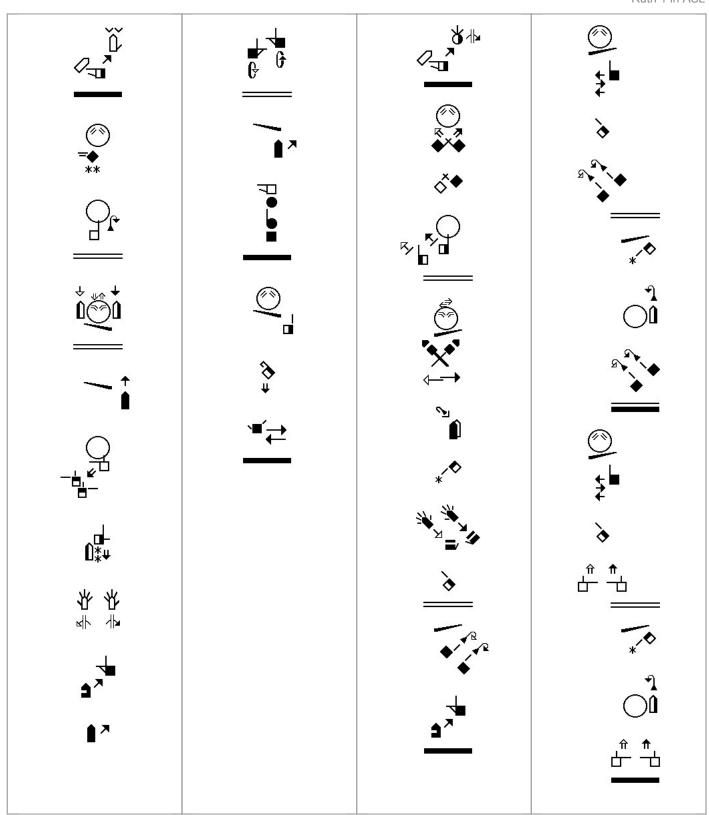
Verse 9. May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept. Verse 10. "No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people." Verse 11. But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still NLT

	Ruth 1 in ASL

give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? Verse 12. No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what?

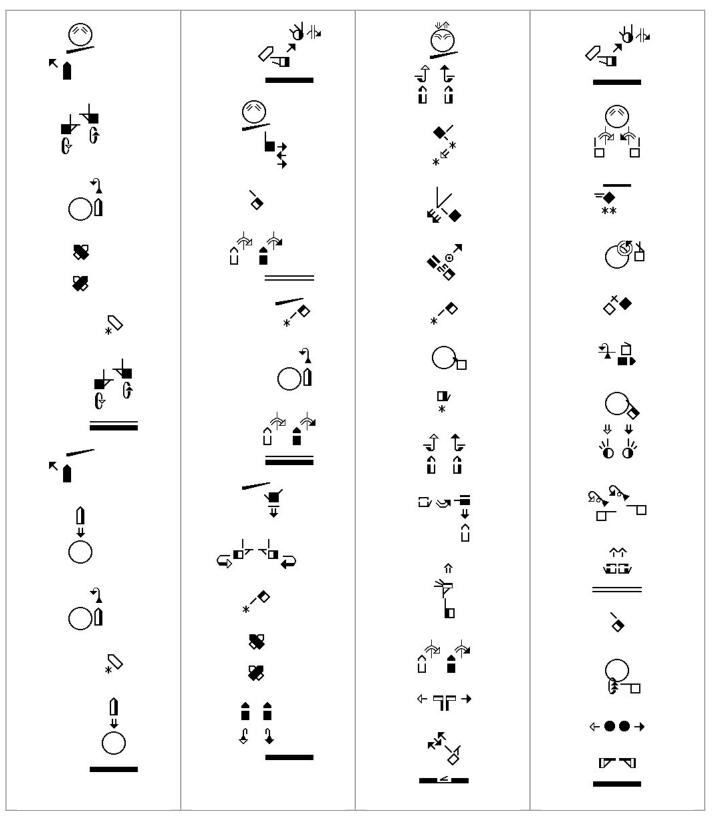


Verse 13. Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me." Verse 14. And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.

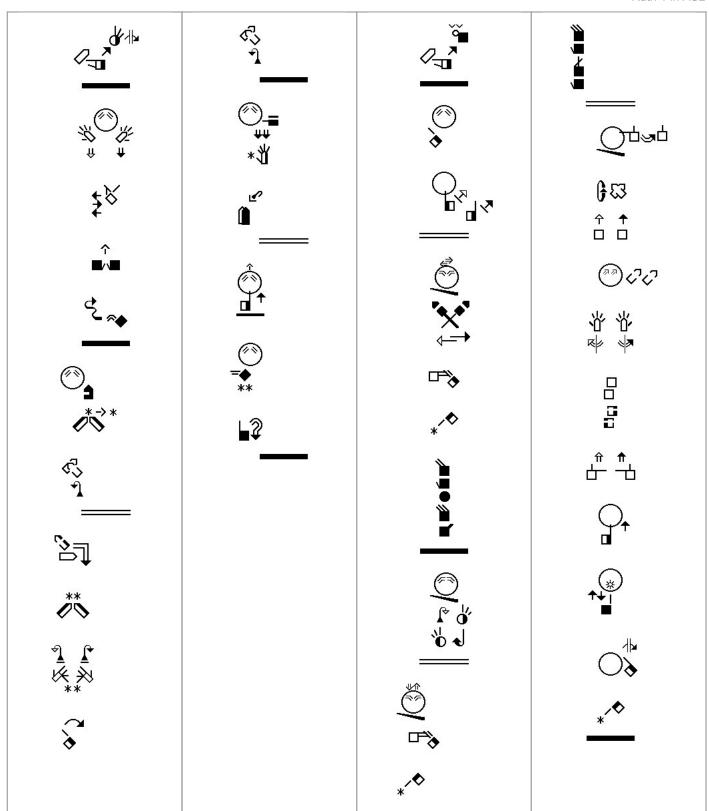


Verse 15. "Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same." Verse 16. But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. NLT

Ruth 1 in ASL

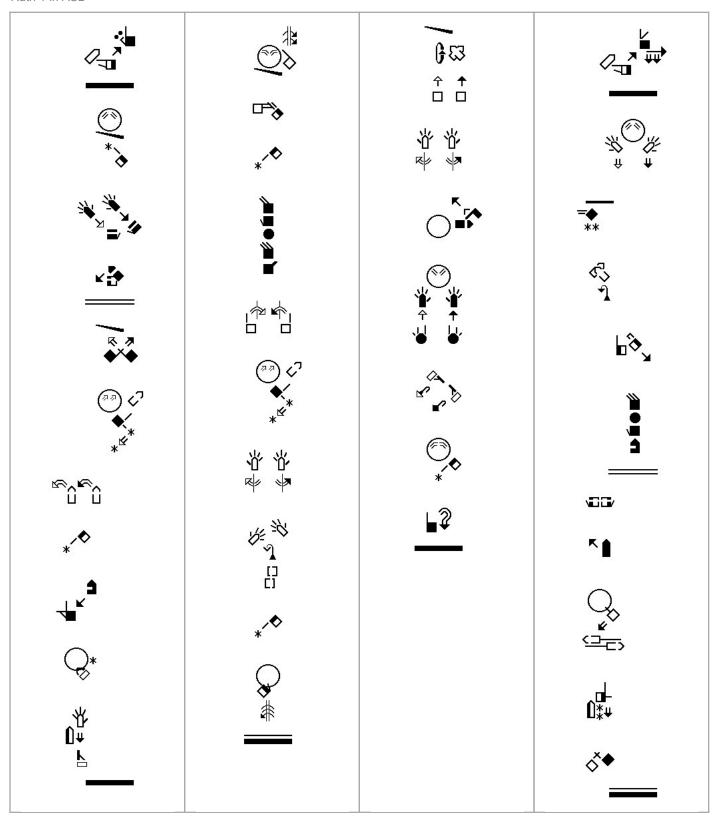


Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Verse 17. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" Verse 18. When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.



Verse 19. So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. "Is it really Naomi?" the women asked. Verse 20. "Don't call me Naomi," she responded. "Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me.

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Verse 21. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the LORD has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?" Verse 22. So Naomi returned from Moab, accompanied by her daughter-in-law Ruth,

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