

What Makes a Caring Partner?

Source Sheet by Benjamin Sigal

בראשית כ"ד:י"ב-י"ד

(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר וְה' אֶלְקָנִי אָדָנִי אָבָרָהָם הַקָּרְהָנָא לְפָנֵי הַיּוֹם וְעַשְׂה הַחֶסֶד עִם אָדָנִי אָבָרָהָם: (יג) הַגָּה אָנֹכִי נִצְבֵּא עַל־עֵין הַמִּינִים וּבְנֹתֶן אֲנֹשֶׁן הַעִיר יִצְאֶת לְשַׁאַב מִים: (יד) וְהִיא הַנְּעָר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים הַטִּינָא כְּדָה וְאַשְׁתָּה וְאַמְרָה שְׁתָה וְגַם־גַּמְלִיכָה אֲשֶׁרֶת הַכְּחַת לְעַבְדָה לִיצָחָק וּבָה אָדָע בִּיְעָשִׂית חֶסֶד עִם־אָדָנִי:

Genesis 24:12-14

(12) And he said, “O God, God of my master Abraham’s [house], grant me good fortune this day, and deal graciously with my master Abraham: (13) Here I stand by the spring as the daughters of the townspeople come out to draw water; (14) let the maiden to whom I say, ‘Please, lower your jar that I may drink,’ and who replies, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels’—let her be the one whom You have decreed for Your servant Isaac. Thereby shall I know that You have dealt graciously with my master.”

רש' י על בראשית כ"ד:י"ד:א'

אתה הכתה. ראייה היא לו שתהא גומלת חסדים, וכדי לכנס בביתו של אברם;

Rashi on Genesis 24:14:1

אתה הכתה HER THOU HAST APPOINTED — She is fit for him since she will be a doer of chessed and will therefore be worthy of admission into the house of Abraham.

רש' י על בראשית כ"ד:י"ד:ג'

כִּי עָשִׂית חֶסֶד. אִם תְּהִיא מִמְשְׁפַחַתוּ וְהַזָּגַנְתָּ לוּ אָדָע כִּי עָשִׂית חֶסֶד:

Rashi on Genesis 24:14:3

תְּהִיא מִמְשְׁפַחַת THAT THOU HAST SHOWN KINDNESS — if she is of his family and a fit companion for him I shall know that thou hast shown kindness to my master.

Kli Yakar on Genesis 24:14:1

She You have proven for Your servant, for Yitzchak. *Rashi explains, she is worthy for him that she is a doer of chessed.* This topic is juxtaposed with the topic of Ephron the Chiti, because he too was from the family of Cana'an... **For if he will remain in his righteousness in the business of money, then in every insight it will be revealed that he is complete [honest], and vice versa.** And from here Eliezer learned that he didn't need to check Rivkah except with this trait--if she is generous [lit. has a good eye] and does chessed, and there he said "I will not demand from her anything but that she give me to drink, and if she responds, 'drink, and I will also give your camels to drink' then certainly she is a doer of kindness, that she will give me more than what I ask, and if so she You have proven for Your servant, for Yitzchak, for his entire household is garbed in salvation for other creatures"

רד' ק על בראשית כ"ד:י"ד:ג'

אתה הוכחתי, כי איתה זמנת ליצחק ואיתה אקח לו לאשה

Radak on Genesis 24:14:3

After passing this test, I will know that she is the one which You, God, have selected for Yitzchok, and I will take her as a wife for him.

פרק דרבי אליעזר ט"ז:ח

והכל [צפו] לפני הב"ה, ובת מלכים שלא יצאה לשאוב מים ימימה יוצאה לשאוב מים באotta שעה והנערה שלא הייתה יודעת מי הוא איש קבלה עליה להזודג ליצחק, למה, שהיתה ראוייה ממעי אמה שנ' במאזנים לעלות המה מהבל ייחד.

Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer 16:8

And everything is revealed before the Holy One, blessed be God. A daughter of kings, who in all her life had never gone forth to draw water, went out to draw water in that hour. And the girl, who did not know who the man was, accepted (the proposal) to be married to Isaac. Why? Because she had been destined for him from his mother's womb, as it is said, "In the balances they will go up, they are together lighter than vanity" (Ps. 62:10).