

# What Makes a Caring Partner?

Source Sheet by Benjamin Sigal

## בראשית כ"ד:י"ב-י"ד

(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם הַקֹּרֶה נָא לִפְנֵי הַיּוֹם וַעֲשֵׂה-חֶסֶד עִם אֲדֹנָי אַבְרָהָם: (יג) הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי נֹצֵב עַל-עֵין הַמַּיִם וּבָנוֹת אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר יֵצְאוֹת לְשָׂאֵב מַיִם: (יד) וְהָיָה הַנֶּעֱרָל אֲשֶׁר אֶמְרָ אֵלֶיהָ הִטִּינָא כִּידָךְ וְאַשְׁתֶּךָ וְאַמְרָה שְׁתֶּךָ וְגַם-גִּמְלֶיךָ אֲשַׁקֶּה אֹתָהּ הַכֹּחֶתְךָ לְעַבְדְּךָ לְיִצְחָק וּבָהּ אֵדַע כִּי-עָשִׂיתָ חֶסֶד עִם-אֲדֹנָי:

### 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 הכחת. ראויה היא לו שתהא גומלת חסדים, וכדאי לקנס בביתו של אברהם;

### Rashi on Genesis 24:14:1

אתה הכחת 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'

כי עשית חסד. אם תהיה ממשפחתו והוגנת לו אדע כי עשית חסד:

### Rashi on Genesis 24:14:3

כי עשית חסד 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 Canaan... **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 הכחת, כי אותה זמנת ליצחק ואותה אקח לו לאשה

### **Radak on Genesis 24:14:3**

אותה הוכחת, 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.

פרקי דרבי אליעזר ט"ז:ח'

והכל [צפוי] לפני ה'ה, ובת מלכים שלא יצאה לשאוב מימים ימימה יצאה לשאוב מים באותה שעה והנערה שלא היתה יודעת מי הוא האיש קבלה עליה להזדוג ליצחק, למה, שהיתה ראויה ממעי אמה שנ' במאזנים לעלות המה מהבל יחד.

### **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).