

דרישה DRISHA INSTITUTE

ב"ה, אדר תשע"ה

Commemorating the 10th Yahrzeit of Dr. Noam Shudofsky Z"l

Dr. Yonatan Grossman on:

Divine Providence and Human Initiative: Abraham's Servant Encounters Rebekah

Servant's prayer / divination (24:12-14)	Rebekah's action (24:15-20)
<p>12: And he said: O LORD, God of my master Abraham, grant me good fortune this day, and deal graciously with my master Abraham.</p>	<p>15: Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder...</p> <p>16: The maiden was very beautiful, a virgin whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up.</p>
<p>13: Here I stand by the spring as the daughters of the townsmen come out to draw water.</p>	<p>17: The servant <i>ran toward her</i></p>
<p>14: let the maiden to whom I say, 'Please, lower your jar that I may drink,'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and who replies, 'Drink,</p>	<p>and said, 'Please, let me sip a little water from your jar.'</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">and I will also water your camels',</p>	<p>18: She said: "Drink, my lord," and <i>quickly</i> lowered her jar upon her hand and let him drink.</p>
<p>let her be the one whom You have proven for Your servant Isaac. Thereby shall I know that You have dealt graciously with my master".</p>	<p>19: When she had let him drink his fill, she said: 'I will also draw for your camels, until they finish drinking.'</p> <p>20: <i>Quickly</i> emptying her jar into the trough, she ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels."</p>

Nechama Leibowitz, Studies in Genesis: .1

"What Eliezer – Abraham's servant – did, cannot be seen as a divination, but rather a psychological test. The tester wants to examine the character of the maiden to see if she is worthy for Isaac, for Abraham's household, and moreover suitable and worthy to the matriarch of future generations owing to be her generosity of spirit".

.2 חולין דף צ"ה ע"ב:

"כל נחש שאינו כאליעזר עבד אברהם וכיונתן בן שאול אינו נחש"

"Every divination that it is not like the divination made by Eliezer, Abraham's servant, and Yonatan, Shaul's son, is not a divination"

Rashi, Genesis 24:17: .3

"וירץ העבד לקראתה – לפי שראה שעלו המים לקראתה".

"*The servant ran toward her* – Because he saw that the water had risen toward her".

Rabbi Yitzchak Arama, Akeidas Yitzchak, Genesis, chapter 22: .4

"This divination was not valid, because Eliezer said: 'she would say: "drink and I will water your camels too"', but she only said: "drink sir", and just after she gave him water to drink, she added "and I will draw to your camels too". This is enough to invalidate the divination. So, why was he so happy?"