מפרשים

Classical Commentaries

SFORNO

Why true kindness means giving more than asked

Genesis 24:14

Eliezer's test establishes a model of chessed (lovingkindness): the one seeking a kindness should ask for only a small part of what is truly needed, while the one who gives should respond by providing fully, even beyond what was requested. The sign Eliezer seeks is meant to reveal a woman whose character embodies this generous, overflowing quality of giving. Additionally, the word "hochachta" hints that Rivkah's worthiness came through Divine admonishment and guidance that shaped and refined her character until she became fit to marry Yitzchok. AI SUMMARY

“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.””

I will also water your camels. — A supplicant should ask for less than his needs and the giver should provide him with all his needs or more.

Whom You have determined. — Hochachta in Hebrew can also be rendered “whom You have rebuked” — You admonished and instructed her until she was worthy of marrying Yitzchok.