



Jewish ethics. Heavenly ideals. Earthly Compassion.

The Compassionate Water Giver: Our Mother Rivkah

1. Genesis 24:43-44: Look, I am standing by the well. When a girl comes out to draw water, I will say to her, 'Please, give me a little water to drink from your pitcher.' If she says to me 'You can drink, and I will also draw water for your camels,' she is the woman whom God has designated for my master's son.

- Context: Avraham sends his servant, Eliezer, to find a suitable wife for his son – Yitchak. The above quote is the test that Eliezer decides will be most successful in a suitable wife for Yitchak. Shortly after making this declaration, Eliezer is approached by Rivkah who not only offers him water but also his camels. Rivkah ends up marrying Yitchak, and she becomes one of our 'founding mothers.'

Questions

1. Why do you think Eliezer chooses this test?
2. What lesson can we learn from Rivkah that she offered not only Eliezer water to drink but also his camels?
3. Do you think the Torah is making a statement about compassion for animals specifically?
4. How often do you look to give to others and help others in need?