

## IN G-D'S IMAGE

### Background

The *parshah* opens up on a bad day in the life of Avraham Avinu. He is 99 years old, and this is the third day after his *bris millah*. He is clearly in pain and in physical danger, sitting in the extreme heat of the day. Three angels in the form of men appear on the horizon to visit Avraham. Instead of proceeding directly to his tent, they wait at a distance till he sees them and runs out to greet them. Rashi is telling us that they knew that he would do this, but they waited at a distance to honor him by showing that they didn't wish to trouble him.

### Questions

This doesn't seem like a very nice thing to do. If the angels understood that he would run out towards them, then they recognized that they would be causing him pain and hardship. So why do it? Granted it may give him honor to show that they didn't want to trouble him, but since they were actually troubling him by doing this and causing him pain and discomfort, the proper thing would seem to be to forget about giving him this honor. Why

#### ספר בראשית פרק יח

וַיֵּשֶׁא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה  
שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו  
וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרֶץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח  
הָאֵהָל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַרְצָה

2) *And he lifted his eyes and saw, and behold, three men were standing upon the horizon, and he saw and ran towards them from the opening of his tent.*

#### רשי על בראשית פרק יח פסוק ב

וירא - מהו וירא וירא ב' פעמים הראשון כמשמעו והשני לשון הבנה נסתכל שהיו נצבים במקום אחד והבין שלא היו רוצים להטריחו ואע"פ שיוודעים היו שיצא לקראתם עמדו במקומם לכבודו ולהראותו שלא רצו להטריחו וקדם הוא ורץ לקראתם

**Rashi:** He saw – Why does the Torah repeat “he saw” twice? The first time means he saw, and the second means he understood. He saw that they were standing at the horizon waiting, and then he understood that they were waiting there because they didn't want to trouble him. Even though they knew that he would go out to meet them, they stood in their place to give him honor and to show him that they didn't want to bother him. He then went and ran towards them.