

MARRIAGE PART 1

Background

The three *molochim* come to visit Avraham. While he is waiting upon them, they ask, “Where is your wife?” Rashi seems to be bothered by inappropriateness of this question. Why are they asking a man about his wife? Rashi answers that the *molochim* actually had a pointed reason for the question: by asking where his wife was, they solicited the answer, “She is in the tent.” This reminded Avraham of one of the finest traits of his wife: her modesty. This was done in order to make her more beloved in his eyes.

ספר בראשית פרק יח

ט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אִיִּה שָׂרָה
אֲשֶׁתְּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בְּאֶהָל

And they said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”

רש"י על בראשית פרק יח פסוק ט

בב"מ (דפ"ז) אומרים יודעים היו מלאכי השרת שרה אמנו היכן היתה אלא להודיע שצנועה היתה כדי לחבבה על בעלה.

Rashi – *The ministering angels knew where Sarah Imeinu was, so they wished to inform Avraham that she was modest in order to make her beloved to her husband.*

Questions

It is difficult to imagine a better marriage than that of Avraham and Sarah. Each one was a perfect *tzaddik* dedicated towards the other's needs. This event takes place after many, many years of successful marriage, and as such, there are two points that are difficult to understand:

1. Why would the *molochim* feel the need to make her more beloved in his eyes? Was their marriage in jeopardy?
2. The *molochim* didn't teach Avraham anything new. All that they did was ask a question, and he provided the answer. Since he knew this fact already, what did their question add?