

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

Turning Strangers into Angels | Dr. Erica Brown | October 21, 2021



James Tissot, "Abraham and the Three Angels" c.1900, gouache on board, 7 3/4 x 11 5/16, Jewish Museum, NYC

Genesis 18:1-8

וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בְּאַלְגֵי מִמְרָא וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב פֶּתַח-הָאֵהָל כְּהֵיטֵם הַיּוֹם:

וַיֵּשֶׁא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְרִים עֲלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרָץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַרְצָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי אִם-נָא מֵצֵאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֶל-גַּא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ:

גַּח-נָא מֵעַט-מֵיָם וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֲנוּ תַחַת הָעֵץ:

וְאָקַחְהָ פַת־לֶחֶם וְסִעְדּוּ לְבָבְכֶם אֶתֶר תַעֲבֹרוּ כִי-עַל-כֵּן עֲבַרְתֶּם עַל-עַבְדְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵן תַעֲשֶׂה כַאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:

וַיִּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֵהָלָה אֶל-שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מִהֲרִי שְׁלֵשׁ סֵאִים קָמָה סֵלֶת לְיוֹשֵׁי וַעֲשֵׂי עֲגוֹת:



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וְאֵל־הַבְּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח כּוֹבָדִים רַבִּי וְטוֹב נִיחָן אֶל־הַטֵּעַר וַיִּמְהַר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ:

וַיִּקַּח חֶמְאָה וְחֵלֶב וּבָן־הַבְּקָר אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן לַפְּנִיָּהֶם וְהוּא־עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ וַיֹּאבְדוּ:

The Lord appeared to him by the terebinths of Mamre; he was sitting at the entrance of the tent as the day grew hot. Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground, he said, “My lords, if it please you, do not go on past your servant. Let a little water be brought; bathe your feet and recline under the tree. And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may refresh yourselves; then go on—seeing that you have come your servant’s way.” They replied, “Do as you have said.” Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quick, three seahs of choice flour! Knead and make cakes!” Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a calf, tender and choice, and gave it to a servant-boy, who hastened to prepare it. He took curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared and set these before them; and he waited on them under the tree as they ate.

Reflective Question

Describe in detail the kindest thing a stranger ever did or said to you.

Leadership Challenge

Create a moment of legendary hospitality in your leadership.

