

The Mitzvah of Having Guests

Letters and Numbers of Torah – Vayeira

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וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אַיֵּה שָׂרָה אִשְׁתְּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בְּאֵהָלִי:

And they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "Behold in the tent."

In the Torah the word אֵלָיו *eilav*, "to him", has three *nekudos* (dots) on top: one on the *Alef*, the *Yud* and the *Vav*, respectively.

These three dotted letters together spell *Ayo*, meaning, "Where is he?" Rashi interprets: not only did the angels ask Abraham, "Where is Sarah?" but they also asked Sarah, "Where is he; where is Abraham?"

The angels are teaching us the good trait of inquiring about our hosts. To a man one should ask, "How is your wife?" and to a woman, "How is your husband?"

How are these three letters the secret to fertility?