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## Like an Angel

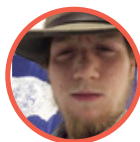
Parshas Vayeira starts with three angels coming to visit Avraham in his tent. This introduces the famous question as to why three angels are required simply to convey a few messages. Rashi answers this question by explaining the reason “for one angel does not perform two tasks.” However, this raises the question- why is it that angels can’t multitask? Are humans more capable than angels? Why is it so important for Rashi to emphasize this to us?

I saw a beautiful idea from Rabbi Menachem Feldman. He explains that we should look at this ‘disability’ as a superpower. When an angel is given a task it naturally isolates it and delves into completing it fully. The angels have no personal pride, or personal agenda that get in their way; at that moment, he is nothing but the task. As such, they cannot perform two acts simultaneously, as it’s impossible to be, fully, in two places at once.

A person, on the other hand, even when performing the will of G-d, still possesses their ego. A person always maintains the sense that he has an independent will, and at that point, he is merely engaged in the mission as well as being an individual. As such, he can never become entirely one with the mission, and therefore won’t

necessarily have an issue engaging in something else.

In his explanation, Rashi teaches us how to be more like an angel- specifically how to be fully engaged in what we are doing, to the extent that we essentially forget about anything else. We need to learn how to help someone else while simultaneously doing so void of any egotistical motives. In these hard times, delving into one chessed can change someone’s life, and just because one is not running around and helping every single person that doesn’t mean you’re not making a difference. Often, being fully engaged in one chessed and doing it properly, is just what it means to be like an angel.



**Meir Backman**  
**12th grade, Tel Aviv**

## The Calming Effect

I can’t believe I’m writing a dvar Torah for Torah Tidbits! I feel a bit incompetent for the job and being that I’m a newbie here in Israel it is a huge honor. In Parshas Vayeira many big important events happen. Avraham’s last and maybe hardest trial, the Akeida. The destruction of the wicked city of Sodom. But something in particular about this Vayeira stands out to me in particular.

From within the first verses I found an amazing life lesson. In the beginning of the parsha Avraham is visited by 3 men.

Avraham treats his guests with such hospitality. Giving them water for washing, shade, milk, cakes, and lamb chops! Now I don't know about you but when I read verses 4-8 there is this urgency and this rush which in my opinion normally isn't felt in the Torah (then again I haven't read that much Torah yet).

But wait there's more, right after verse 8 there's a sense of calm and ease. I feel the lesson in this is that it is so urgent and you should always rush to make everyone feel like your friend so that others can be comfortable around you. In other words, take care of others so that they can be calm and once they're calm now you can be calm knowing they're calm.

The Rambam mentions that at the time of this event Avraham was elderly and had servants and he also recently had a circumcision. Yet still he jumped at the opportunity to be someone's friend, and help them all be calm and relaxed. So let's all this week try to be like Avraham. Let's make those around us feel calmer and more relaxed. Let's be ready to help all around us who need help. Let's be ready to be everyone's friend. And who knows maybe you will get a Tzadik for a son in one year's time :)

Stay strong and stay Jewish! ■

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