

Peshat vs Derosh

18:9 ויאמרו אליו איה שרה אשתך

"and they (the angels) said to him (Avraham) 'Where is Sarah your wife?'

The word "him אליו " is written with dots over the letters "Alef" "Yud" and "Vav".

Rashi tells us that Rabbi Shimeon ben Eliezer (Midrash Rabba) taught a **general rule** in Torah interpretation, that if the letters without dots are more than the letters with dots, we interpret (דורש) from the letters without the dots.

Here there are more letters with dots so we take out these letters and get the word "where is he איו ?" meaning they also said to her (Sarah) "where is Avraham?"

From this story we learn that when one is a guest in another's home, one should always ask the man how his wife is and ask the woman how her husband is.