

And the steward of my house is Damesek Eliezer. (15:2)

Rashi cites a number of definitions for the word *Damesek*. *Targum Onkelos* notes that Eliezer came from Damascus. Hence the name *Damesek* is a reference to the city from which he originated. In the second interpretation cited by *Rashi*, *Damesek* is the city to which the kings were chased prior to their defeat. In the last interpretation, *Damesek* is an acronym for two words *veanu vkus*, referring to Eliezer's attitude towards studying *Torah* transmitted to him by his great *rebbe*, Avraham. He would be "*doleh*," draw the *Torah* out as one draw's water from a wellspring; and he would be "*mashke*," give others to drink.

It seems surprising that of all the noble character traits that Eliezer demonstrated, specifically these two terms, "*doleh u'mashke*," stand prominent. Eliezer probably never left Avraham's side for fear that he would miss something. Yet, his great attribute is "*doleh u'mashke*." **Horav Baruch Mordechai Ezechai, Shlita**, explains this distinction in the following manner: Eliezer was driven to study as much as possible from his *rebbe*, Avraham. He was unlike the average student who listens and absorbs everything he hears from his *rebbe*. Eliezer did not simply wait to hear: He was *doleh*; he drew out everything he was capable of studying. It was as if he was constructed of a pail with a long rope that was submerged into Avraham's heart and mind, his wellspring of *Torah*. Thus, he drew out whatever *Torah* he could. That was not sufficient, however! As soon as he filled his receptacle with *Torah* he would pull up the rope and immediately give those who were thirsty for *Torah* knowledge the opportunity to drink. He did not wait for them to come over and draw the water as he did. He gave them to drink. For himself, he drew the *Torah*; to others, he poured *Torah*. Is there a greater tribute to a student of *Torah*? Is there a more noble personification of *Torah* study? Eliezer wanted to amass as much *Torah* knowledge as there was -- because he wanted to teach it to others!