



In the 1920's, there was a businessman in England who toiled countless hours for the sake of the community, but someone in his family wanted him to decrease his involvement in the community so he could devote more time to his business. The businessman consulted Rav Yechezkel Abramsky. The Rav told him that he is unable to objectively answer his question and thus, he advised him to consult the Chofetz Chaim. The man agreed, and the Rav wrote to the Chofetz Chaim and asked him to invite the man for a Shabbos in his home. The man traveled to Radin and arrived at the Chofetz Chaim's home shortly before Shabbos. The Chofetz Chaim reassured the visitor that after Shabbos they would sit down to discuss his question.

The Chofetz Chaim spoke to the public only once a week, at Shalosh Seudos. That Shabbos, the Chofetz Chaim spoke about the words of Dovid Hamelech in Tehillim 23 "Only goodness and loving kindness should pursue me all the days of my life." The Chofetz Chaim asked, "The word 'pursue' (that has a bit of a negative connotation) seems to be an inappropriate word to be used in relation to goodness and loving kindness." The Chofetz Chaim expounded, "Many people have serious troubles. One has financial difficulties, another has problems with his children, and a third suffers from poor health. These types of troubles pursue them their entire life. Dovid Hamelech was begging Hashem that He should bless him that the only things that will trouble him should be goodness and performing loving kindness for others."

After Shabbos, the Chofetz Chaim said to his visitor, "Let us sit down now, and discuss your problem." The businessman replied, "I no longer have a problem to discuss. The Chofetz Chaim has already answered my question, and I thank Hashem that the only things troubling me are goodness and loving kindness."

Hints & Answers* **SHMIRAS SHABBOS:** The Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa (1:71) writes, "In order to defrost frozen bread, it is permitted to put it next to a fire, in a place where [the heat] will not be able to toast it. Or [similarly, it is permitted to] even place it on top of [the cover of] a water urn that's [standing] on the fire. But one should be careful to, at first, shake off the pieces of ice that's on top of [the frozen bread]." **RHYME:** "hug". **RIDDLE:** There was a thunder and therefore, people said the bracha of "SheKocho u'Gevuroso moleh olam." The Mishna Berura (OC 66:19) cites a machlokes if it's permitted to say the bracha on thunder in the middle of saying Shema or its brachos. It appears (based on that Mishna Berura) that it's permitted to say the bracha on thunder "between the chapters" - for example: after completing the 1st bracha, before starting the 2nd bracha. **TRIVIA: 1.** The story of Yaakov and Eisav getting blessings from Yitzchok. (See Rashi's commentary to Bereishis 27:9) . **2.** An apple. The aroma that Yitzchok smelled when Yaakov came in to get a blessing was an aroma of the field of apples. (See Rashi's commentary to Bereishis 27:27) **SHMITTA:** Yes. [based on "A Guide to the Halachos of Shmittah" by Rav A. Wiesenfeld] *Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic authorities. As such, Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, questions to a moreh hora'ah, and further study.

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Menucha

A Shabbos table companion
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Volume 11, Issue 7

TOLDOS

5782

Shmiras Shabbos

Defrosting the Challah



The Kashber family had so many guests on Shabbos that they ran out of fresh challahs. The older sister Rivky went to the kitchen with a hope that she would find more challahs. "We're saved!" she cheerfully screamed out. "I found one more challah in the freezer."

"But how will we eat it?" asked the puzzled four-year-old Binyamin.

"Let's wait five minutes, and the challah will be defrosted on its own," proposed Rivky.

Her brother, Levi objected: "Even after five minutes, the challah will still be cold and not so tasty. I think we should put it near the *blech* for some time."

Binyamin jumped in with his answer: "In my friend's house, I saw how they took out a kugel from a refrigerator and put it on top of the covered pot that was standing on a *blech*. Let's do the same with the challah!"

Question: Who has the correct solution – Rivky, Levi or Binyamin?

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DEDICATIONS

♦ for refuah sheleima to those who need it

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"And Rivka said to Yaakov her son, saying, "Behold I have heard your father speaking to Esav your brother, saying 'Bring me game and make me tasty foods, and I will eat, and I will bless you before Hashem before my death.' And now my son, hearken to my voice, to what I am commanding you. Go now to the flock, and take for me from there two choice kids, and I will make them tasty foods for your father, as he likes. And you shall bring [them] to your father that he may eat, in order that he bless you before his death." And Yaakov said to Rivka his mother, "Behold, my brother Esav is a hairy man, whereas I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will touch me, and I will appear to him as a deceiver, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing." [Bereishis 27:6-12]

As we see from this verse, Yaakov was only concerned that his father would recognize him because of Yaakov's smooth skin.

Q. Why wasn't Yaakov concerned that his father would recognize him by his voice?!

A. In fact, the Torah says that it is the "voice" that almost gave it away: "The voice is the voice of Yaakov," said Yitzchok after hearing Yaakov speak (ibid., 27:22). So why wasn't Yaakov concerned about it before he appeared in front of Yitzchok?

Furthermore, Rashi offers a seemingly puzzling definition of "the voice of Yaakov." Based on the words of Chaza"l, Rashi explains that what distinguished between the voice of Eisav and the voice of Yaakov, is the word "please." Yaakov said to his father: "rise please [and] sit," while Eisav said: "my father should rise." Why was Rashi compelled to give this explanation instead of just saying simply that Yaakov's voice sounded differently than the voice of Eisav?

The answer is because if their voices were truly different, then Yaakov should have been concerned about it before he came to his father. In fact, the Ramban says (in one of his answers to the question of why wasn't Yaakov concerned about "the voice") that Yaakov had the skill to actually change his voice so that he would sound like Eisav. Hence, what we see from here is that Yaakov Avinu could change the nature of his own voice, but to talk to his father without saying "please" was beyond him!

From this story, the Torah is teaching us that a Ben or Bas Yisroel should follow in Yaakov Avinu's footsteps and talk respectfully to his or her parents not merely because it's considered proper conduct, but rather as a result of this *middah* being completely integrated into the make up of his or her soul.



Rhymes for Kids



Do you know the secret of Yitzchak's wells
Which on parshas Toldos he carefully dug?
They opened for us the Five Books of Torah
Which Hashem gave us with a loving ____!

"How many wells did our father Yitzchak dig in Be'er Sheva? Rabbi Yehuda says: Four. And corresponding to them, his children were formed into four camps. But Rabbanan say: Five - corresponding to the Five Books of Torah." (Midrash Bereishis Rabba 64:8)



Tefilla Riddle



On Rosh Chodesh Kislev, Yitzy woke up early, got dressed, took his precious tefillin in his right hand, and - for "just in case" - an umbrella in his left hand, and headed to shul. He davened Shacharis at the 6:30 AM *minyan*. After tefilla, he stayed in shul and learned while the 8:30 AM *minyan* was taking place. He was very puzzled by the fact that the *tzibur* in that *minyan* said a total of three (instead of two) *brachos* between *Borchu* and *Sh'ma*. Can you explain to Yitzy why they did that?



Parsha Trivia



1. Which episode in this week's parsha occurred on Pesach?
2. If you were to pick a fruit to eat this Shabbos in honor of parshas Toldos, which fruit would you pick?



Shmittah Shaila



Am I allowed to freeze Kedushas Sheviis fruits and vegetables if they won't get ruined by it, although they might become less tasty?
YES / NO