



Rav Meir Simcha (ben Shimshon Kolonimus) Hakohen of Dvinsk, the Ohr Some'ach (1843-1926, 4th of Elul).

Rav Meir Simcha is renowned for two works: Ohr Samayach, a commentary on the Rambam's Mishne Torah and Meshech Chochmah, a commentary on Chumash. His vast knowledge of Talmud was such that when in 1906 someone claimed to have discovered the missing Talmud on Kodshim, Rav Meir Simcha was able to determine that it was a forgery. Reb Meir Simcha was a strong supporter of the settlement of Eretz Yisrael and was happy with the Balfour Declaration.

Some of Ohr Samayach's chidushim became well-known. One of such chidushim teaches that it is not surprising that a Jew willingly gives his life to sanctify Hashem's name because it is natural that when one is confronted with an opposite force, his essence shines forth (parshas Va'eschanan).

What's not well known is that Rav Meir Simcha's expertise was in helping couples to have shalom bais. A story is told that a couple once visited him to discuss their issues in marriage and after sometime there was a noise of joy, singing and dancing heard from the room where the Rav and the couple were sitting. The secretary peered in to see what caused this commotion. She saw the Rav and the couple dancing with tremendous joy in the middle of the room.

Hints & Answers* **SHMIRAS SHABBOS:** The *Kaf HaChaim* (O.C. 262:21) writes the following: "There is one opinion which holds that the husband should be the one that arranges the table (i.e., to spread the table cloth on the table) on erev Shabbos, because it is his mitzva to prepare [the home for Shabbos] (*Chesed La'alafim*, 2). However, from what is written in the *Tikunim of Zohar* (§24), it appears that specifically the wife should be the one who arranges the table [on erev Shabbos], and there is a *kabbalistic* reason behind this. The *Ben Ish Chai* (Vayeira, 17) is also of such opinion." **RHYME:** "must" **RIDDLE:** He is thinking about wrapping himself in tallis before Selichos that Shimon will lead in his shul which will take place very early in the morning - before the *z'man* for tefillin and tallis. Since it's not clear whether one should say a *bracha* on a tallis at night, the solution in such case is to borrow someone else's tallis, and not to use one's own or the shul's. [See *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* 128:6]

*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, further study, and questions to a *posek*, etc.



Shmiras Shabbos

Who Should Spread the Table Cloth?



"Where is Imma?" asked Abba as he walked in the door on erev Shabbos.

"She is taking a nap," answered Rivky.

"Great! Good for her!" said Abba.

Abba walked over to the dining table and started clearing things away so that he can put the tablecloth on the table. After clearing things away, he took the tablecloth and was about to spread it over the table, when his 4-year-old son Chaim asked in astonishment, "Abba, doesn't Imma always put the Shabbos tablecloth on the table?"

"True, but she is napping now. So this week, I'll put the Shabbos tablecloth on the table. It doesn't really matter who does it," explained Abba as he smiled at Chaim.

But then Abba paused for a moment and started wondering, "Or maybe it does matter..."

Question: Does it matter who spreads the tablecloth on the table on erev Shabbos?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

◆ For *refuah sheleima* to those who need it





Parsha Pearls

תָּמִים תִּהְיֶה עִם ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ. -- דברים יח:יג

Rashi explains one of the messages of this verse in the following way:

Accept wholeheartedly everything that will come upon you...

Note that the word קבל in Rashi's comment above is in present tense, while the word שיבא is in the future tense!

The message is: Accept **now** that whatever **will** happen, will be all good, since it will come from your loving Father in Shamayim.



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

At every weekday *Shacharis* during the month of Elul, the sound of shofar is heard.

Ask around your Shabbos table: What should one think about when he hears the sound of Shofar?

An Answer: Once, a student in Yeshiva came to HaRav Nosson Tzvi Finkel zt"l (the former Rosh Yeshiva of the Mir Yeshiva) before Rosh Hashana, and asked him what should he think about when he hears the sound of shofar on Rosh Hashana. The Rosh Yeshiva answered the student: "You should think about other people."



Rhymes for Kids



Since in Hashem you put your trust
Not to worry is a _____!

תָּמִים תִּהְיֶה עִם ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ. -- דברים יח:יג



Parsha Trivia & Riddles



Shimon is thinking that not long from now he will be doing the mitzva of *arbah minim*. Of course, he knows that on the 1st day of Succos he cannot use a borrowed set of *arbah minim*. But Shimon is also thinking that before Succos he will be doing another mitzva, where it will not be proper for him to use his own mitzva item (although it's in excellent shape) for that mitzva, but to borrow it. Which mitzva is he thinking about? (Hint: Shimon goes to bed early.)

? DID YOU KNOW THAT ?

You probably knew that giving tzedakah, is a great mitzva, **but did you know** that based on the verse, עֲשֵׂה צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט נִבְחָר לָהּ מִזֶּבַח - *Performing charity and justice is preferred by Hashem to a sacrifice* (Mishlei 21:3), the Midrash relates to us the following *mesorah*: (Devorim Rabba, Shoftim, 5:3):

Sacrifices atone only for sins done unintentionally, but charity and [just] judgments atone for sins done unintentionally and intentionally.