

# Just a Story... **A Great Teacher**

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l



"The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, and the superior teacher demonstrates." This grading of teachers made by William Arthur Ward came to mind upon hearing what Rabbi Dovid Weinberger did for his class of senior citizens at Jerusalem's Ohr Somayach while studying the Torah law forbidding the consumption of animal fat known as cheilev. In all of his many years as an educator, Reb Dovid never had such a group of students who insisted on being shown exactly which is the forbidden fat and which the permitted one.

What did Reb Dovid do? In the presence of the students, he got on the phone to the renowned Jerusalem butcher, Reb Alter Hacker, and began asking him how to answer his students questions. "Send one of them over to me right away," came the answer. In less than a quarter of an hour one of the older men came into the classroom clutching genuine cheilev in one hand, and the permitted shuman in the other.

Thus Rabbi Weinberger, who serves as the Ohr Somayach Student Registrar in addition to his teaching role, proved himself a superior teacher by demonstrating what he taught, and a truly great teacher by inspiring his students and his colleagues with a love for learning and teaching.

[Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

**Hints & Answers\*** **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (20:22) writes: "Any object that a person set a special place for it due its great value, and he is careful not to move it due to the concern that it should not get damaged, such as a wall clock, a diploma that he is careful about, are also included in the category of *"muktza machmas chesron kis"* and there isn't any permission to move it." **RHYME:** "art" **RIDDLE:** 1. 28:12, 32:2 2. Lavan did not want to mix the joy of Leah's wedding with the joy of Rachel's wedding. Thus, after the 1st wedding, he told to Yaakov that he needs to wait one week. [Now, if Lavan did not want to reduce someone's joy, how much more so we should be careful about that!] 3. Yaakov and Moshe. (1) ...במקום הנה...ניירא ויאמר מה-נורא המקום הנה. (2) ניירא משה ויאמר אכן גודע הדקר (2) \*Note: The answers are based only on the sources quoted and might not reflect opinions of other halachic authorities.



בס"ד

**Menucha** A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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## Halacha Challenge *Diploma*



The Cohen family had Mr. Silver as a guest for their Friday night *seuda*. During the *seuda*, Mr. Silver noticed Dr. Cohen's diploma hanging on a wall. "Whose diploma is it?" asked Mr. Silver. "Boruch Hashem, it's my diploma for my doctor's degree," answered Dr. Cohen.

"Wow! That's amazing. I didn't know that you are a doctor!" said Mr. Silver as he walked over to the wall where the diploma was hanging. "My vision is not so great," said Mr. Silver, "Do you mind if I take down your diploma and take a closer look at it?" "Ahh..hmm...I ggguess I don't mind," replied Dr. Cohen. At that moment, the youngest son of the Cohen's said to the honored guest, "Mr. Silver - but isn't my totty's diploma muktza?!" Mr. Silver looked at Chaim with puzzled look.

**Question:** Can Mr. Silver take down the diploma?

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**DEDICATIONS**

◆ Dedicated anonymously for *yeshuos* and *refuos* to all Klal Yisroel

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## Parsha Pearls

וְעֵינֵי לֵאָה רַכּוֹת *And the eyes of Leah were soft...*

(Bereishis 29:17)

Quoting the words of Chaza"l, Rashi explains that Leah's eyes were soft due to crying, because people would say that Yaakov, the younger son of Rivka will marry Rachel, the younger daughter of Lavan; and Eisav, the older son of Rivka, will marry Leah, the older daughter of Lavan. Targum Yonasan elaborates further and tells us that Leah's eyes were soft from crying and praying to Hashem that she should not end up marrying Eisav. Thus, Leah's tears were tears of *tefilla*. This is the lesson that our mother Leah has taught us - pray with tears.

Interestingly, Targum Onkolos does not translate the word רַכּוֹת as "soft". He translates it as "beautiful". Thus, according to Onkolos, the verse reads, "*And the eyes of Leah were beautiful...*" Perhaps, there is no disagreement between these two translations. The Torah is simply teaching us that to our Father in Heaven, the most beautiful eyes are the eyes filled with tears of *tefilla*.

Keep this important lesson from our mother Leah in mind before every *tefilla*. Especially since we have the *mesorah* from our sages: שַׁעְרֵי דַמְעָה לֹא נִנְעָלוּ "The gates of tears are always open" [Berachos 32b]



## Rhymes for Kids



*"...and he [Yaakov] took some of the stones of the place and placed [them] at his head...And Yaakov arose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had placed at his head " (parshas Vayeitze Bereishis 28:11)*

From us you shall learn that peace is beloved.  
A *neiss* was not spared to make us united!  
We're just stones, yet a powerful lesson we're for your heart:  
Being united — that's the true "peace" of \_\_\_\_\_.

*"They [the stones] started quarreling with one another. One said, "Let the righteous man lay his head on me," and another one said, "Let him lay [his head] on me." Immediately, the Holy One, blessed be He, made them into one stone. This is why it is stated (verse 18): "and he took the stone [in the singular] that he had placed at his head." (Peirush Rashi to Bereishis 28:11)*



## Parsha Riddle



- Indeed! The expression מְלֹאכֵי אֱלֹקִים appears only two times in the entire Tanach! But what's even more interesting is that both of these times are in this week's parsha! Can you find them?
- Indeed! Even Lavan had sensitivity toward others! We see it from the fact that he did not want to mix... Mix what?
- Indeed! The word אֶבֶן appears only twice in the entire 5 Books of Torah. It was said by two different people. And indeed, both of them had awe of Heaven around the time that they said that word! Name the two people who said that word.