



The Holy Medal

by Avishai Hill

Once, the Rebbe of Sadigur, R. Avraham Yaakov zt"l travelled incognito to Haifa for a short respite from his busy schedule. After shacharis in the local shul, one of the congregants approached him with the offer to accompany him to his quarters. He reverently took the Rebbe's satchel containing his tallis and tefillin, intending to carry it, but the Rebbe refused the service.

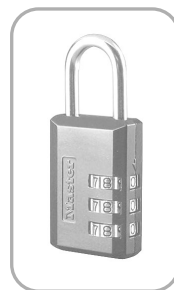
He explained his refusal as follows; "Sometimes, a king may give a gold medal to a friend – a great honor indeed! Is there any doubt that the recipient would feel proud? Of course not! Well, the tallis and tefillin too, are a Jew's gold medals given to him by non-other than the King of kings himself! When I'm at home, I'm not given the opportunity to walk around proudly with my medals [due to the many ardent supporters who whisk them away from me!], so at least permit me to display them here in this city where I am relatively unknown. [source: Tifferes Banim vol3 p35]

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (23:63) writes that it is permitted to use on Shabbos a combination lock that opens by aligning its wheels to the right code. **RHYMES:** "care" **TRIVIA:** B. (Rabbi E. Goldfeiz of Star-K teaches: The Rama writes that one may not wear a wool garment with a linen garment on top it, or vice versa, where it is impossible to remove one garment without first removing the top garment. But one could wear a linen shirt with wool pants because they can be removed separately.) | *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in *halacha*.

Halacha Challenge



Unlocking a Combination Lock on Shabbos



The Reisman family made aliya. They arrived on Tuesday. The next three days, they were working hard setting up their new home in Eretz HaKodesh and getting ready for Shabbos.

On Friday night, when Abba came back from shul, he marveled at the beautiful Shabbos table that his wife and his oldest daughter Shira set up. He thanked his wife and Shira for doing such a wonderful job, but when he came over to his chair, he noticed that the challah cover was missing! His daughter Emunah looked at Abba and said, "I know what you are thinking, Abba. 'Where is the challah cover?' Right, Abba? Is that what you are thinking?"

"Exactly!" said Abba with a smile, "So where is the challah cover?"

"You won't believe it, Abba. It's in the suitcase that's locked with a combination lock!" said his youngest daughter Rachel Leah.

Eli asked Abba, "Is opening that lock a problem of Kosev (writing)?"

"Why is that?" asked Abba.

"Because by aligning the wheels we'll be writing the code," replied Eli.

"No way!" objected Yitzy, "Just by putting the numbers in the right order cannot possibly be *Kosev*! Abba, what's a Shabbos table without our beautiful challah cover?"

Question: Can they open that combination lock now?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls

...לָתֵת לוֹ פִּי שְׁנַיִם...כִּי־הוּא רִאשִׁית אָנוּ...

...to give to him [to the firstborn] a double portion...because he is the first of his [father's] strength... We learn from here that a firstborn gets a double portion of the father's inheritance due to the fact that the first born is רִאשִׁית אָנוּ. Targum Onkolos teaches that רִאשִׁית אָנוּ means "the first of his strength."

We can learn from here that whatever you give your 'first strength' to, it receives an extra blessing from Above. That is why the ideal way to conduct yourself in the morning after you wake up is to channel your first actions, speech and thoughts towards learning and prayer.

ELUL



אֲנִי לְדוֹדֵי וְדוֹדֵי לִי הִרְעָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁנִּים - *I am for My beloved, and My beloved is for me; He shepherds me among the roses* (Shir HaShirim 6:3).

The Ariza"l is quoted saying that based on a Kabbalistic teaching the fact that the first letters of the words לִי דוֹדֵי וְדוֹדֵי אֲנִי spell out אלוּל shows that there is a link between the message of those words and the month of Elul.

What is the link? The verse speaks about the love between us and Hashem. Hence, in the month of Elul, each Jew can increase his love for Hashem to a very great degree.

What is one possible way to achieve this growth? Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, [128:1] teaches us that the verse אֲנִי לְדוֹדֵי וְדוֹדֵי לִי is referring to *tefilla*, because *tefilla* is called - רִינַת דּוּדִים "a song of the beloved"

Hence, Elul is an opportune time to increase our love for Hashem by connecting to Him through powerful prayers. We still have many Shmoneh Esrei prayers that we are going to say before the new year begins. It's within our power to raise each one of them to the level of רִינַת דּוּדִים.



Rhymes for Kids



"...so shall you do with any lost article of your brother which he has lost and you have found. You may not hide." (parshas Ki Seitze, Devorim 22:3)

"You must not cover your eyes, pretending not to see it." -- Rashi's commentary to Devorim 22:3

Hashovas Aveida takes time but it's fair!
For people's things Hashem wants us to _____.



Parsha Trivia



In this week's parsha we learn the prohibition of wearing Shaatnez: **"You shall not wear a mixture of wool and linen together."** (Devorim 22:11)

Yossi bought a sha'atnez-free linen shirt and a sha'atnez-free wool suit.

Choose the Right Answer

- A. He may wear only that shirt (with a non-wool suit), or only that suit (with a non-linen shirt).
- B. He may wear that shirt and the pants from that suit at the same time.
- C. He may wear all three of them at the same time.