# Just a Story

#### A Tale of Two Children

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l

When the couple came to register their three-year old child in the Talmud Torah in Bnei Brak, the principal noted that they were far more excited than ordinary parents who make a routine application.

"Don't you remember us?" they inquired of the principal as tears streamed down the face of the mother.

When he replied in the negative, they reminded him of what took place four years earlier. Childless for many years they had approached the Rav of the Ramat Elchanan community in Bnei Brak, Rabbi Yitzchak Zilberstein, for advice in how to seek Heavenly help. He relayed to them that the Chafetz Chaim had suggested that raising someone else's child could bring the Heavenly blessing of raising a child of their own. He therefore suggested that they offer to pay the tuition of a child in the local Talmud Torah whose parents couldn't afford to do so and this would be tantamount to raising that child.

They followed this advice and made an arrangement to pay a year's tuition for a poor child in the Talmud Torah they were now visiting. It was in that year that they were blessed with a son. Even though they lived a considerable distance from this particular school, they insisted on registering their son in the school where their miracle began.

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

Hints & Answers\* HALACHA CHALLENGE: Based on the *drasha* of the Midrash Mechilta that the *mann* of *erev* Shabbos had an exceptionally good taste and smell, R. Moshe Shternbauch [*Teshuvos v'Hanhagos*, 2, § 170] learns the following lesson: Just like the *mann* was of high quality taste and smell, so too, it is appropriate (whenever possible), that both challahs used for the mitzva of *Lechem Mishne* should be of the nicest challahs. This is due to the fact that both challahs used for the mitzva of *Lechem Mishne* serve as a remembrance of that *mann* which had good taste and smell. RHYMES: "need". RIDDLES & TRIVIA: In Avraham's prayer to save the 5 cities of Sedom and Amora (see Rashi to Bereishis 18:32). | \*Note: Menucha's answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions & further study







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# Menucha

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family לע"ג ר' ברוך חיים בן סלמון ז"ל

Volume 14, Issue 4

## Vayeira

5785

## Halacha Challenge



### The Quality of the 2nd Challah in Lechem Mishne



"And Malki-Tzedek, the king of Shalem, brought out bread and wine..." Bereishis 14:18

Yossi was almost finished preparing the table for the Shabbos *seuda*.

"Oh, one thing is missing," said Yossi. "I only have one challah on the table. I

am missing the second challah for Lechem Mishne."

While in the dining room, he spotted one small challah roll that was left over from last week. "It is still edible. I can use it for the second challah of Lechem Mishne," said Yossi to himself. But then, he thought for a moment: "I have a much nicer challah in the kitchen. It's more fresh and beautiful. Maybe, I should make the extra effort and bring it here to be used as the 2nd challah of Lechem Mishne..."

**Question:** Should Yossi go to the kitchen and get the nicer challah?

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

#### DEDICATIONS

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



Special thanks to the

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#### Parsha Pearls

And the two angels came to Sodom in the evening...And Lot saw and arose toward them...And he said, "...please turn to your servant's house and stay overnight."...(Bereishis 19:2)

We know the famous Midrashim that tell us how the people of Sodom would punish those who do kindness to others. And we see from the pesukim above that Lot invited guests to his home in Sodom and offered them much kindness. What made Lot take the risk of inviting guests to his home?

Rashi says, "From Avraham's house he learned to look for wayfarers." How did Lot learn it? By observing Avraham himself doing it all the time, it became part of Lot's nature to such a degree that he could not hold himself back from inviting the guests in Sodom, even in the face of danger. This teaches us that being an example for others has a very powerful influence on the observers, if they see the righteous act being performed again and again. They learn from the observation of the good character trait and it becomes part of them.



#### Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

שֹׁחֶר טוֹב יָבַקָּשׁ רַצוֹן, וְדֹרָשׁ רַעָּה תָבוֹאָנוּ

Mishlei 11:27

Ask around your Shabbos table: What in your opinion is the above verse from Mishlei teaching us?

Answer: The Midrash Shocher Tov on Mishlei (parsha 11) explains this verse in the following way: When Reuven speaks well about his friend Shimon, then in Shamayim, malachim speak well about Reuven in front of Hashem. But the opposite is also true says the Midrash —i.e, if Reuven speaks negatively about Shimon, angels speak bad about Reuven in front of Hashem. The exact text of the Midrash is cited below.

אם ראית אדם שהוא מדבר טוב על חבירו, מלאכי השרת מדברין עליו טוב לפני הקדוש ברוך הוא, כד"א וחנותי את אשר אחון. ודורש רעה תבואנו. אם ראית אדם שהוא מדבר רעה על חבירו, מלאכי השרת מדברין עליו רעות לפני הקדוש ברוך הוא, כד"א ישוב עמלו בראשו.



### **Rhymes for Kids**



Bikur Cholim is a great mitzva indeed To eare for others is what I really \_\_\_\_!

"And Hashem appeared to him: to visit the sick. Said Rabbi Chama the son of Chanina: It was the third day from his bris mila, and the Holy One, blessed be **He, came and inquired about his welfare."** (Peirush Rashi to Bereishis 18:1)

Great is the mitzva of visiting the sick because Hashem Himself demonstrated its fulfillment.



### Trivia & Riddles



Where in this week's parsha are women counted as part of a minyan?!

# 2 DID YOU KNOW THAT 2

You probably know that a person should have a makom kavua for tefilla. But did you know that Avraham Avinu is the one who taught us about it? Chazal teach that we learn it from this verse: "And Avraham went early in the morning to the place where he stood in front of Hashem." [Bereishis 19:27].

And *Chazal* further tell us that if a person acts like Avraham in this manner, then Hashem will give such person extra help [Gemora Berachos 6b].