Just a Story

Mistaken Identity

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l

The fame of the great Torah scholar Rabbi Avraham Yeshayahu Karelitz (the Chazon Ish) preceded his visit to the Russian city of Minsk, but few people actually recognized him in the early years.

When he entered a local synagogue and took a volume of the Talmud from a shelf for study, he could not know that a shiur was soon to be given to a group in that very Gemara. The gabbai snatched the Gemara from his hand angrily saying, "A simple Jew should be reciting the psalms of Tehillim; the Gemara is needed for the participants in the shiur!"

The next morning the gabbai approached him to ask his name in order to call him for making a blessing on the Torah. When he heard his name he realized that he had insulted a Torah giant who would someday be the leader of his generation and he profusely apologized for his behavior.

In his characteristic humility the Chazon Ish gently responded:

"Everything you said was perfectly correct. The people in the shiur had a priority to the Gemara I was holding, and a simple Jew should recite Tehillim."

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

Hints & Answers* HALACHA CHALLENGE Regarding the prohibition of moving wet garments, Shmuel is referring to the *halacha* stated by the *Rama* in O.C. 301:46. The *Mishna Berura* (301:162) does however allow a person to pick up garments that fell in water on Shabbos if he does not have other ones to wear now*. RHYME: "hug" RIDDLE: 1. Hashem said to Yitzchok, "Don't be afraid, because I am with you." (26:24) By the way, *Adon Olam* is not just in Yitzchok's *siddur*. It's in your siddur as well. Hashem is with you. You don't need to be afraid. You proclaim it with a song every single day! 2. When Yaakov came to Yitzchok to get the *bracha*, he said "please" when he asked him to sit on his bed. Upon hearing that word, Yitzchok said, "The voice is the voice of Yaakov," - i.e., only Yaakov talks politely to his father like that (based on Rashi's commentary). 3. Wine. Rivka gave to Yaakov meat and bread to bring to his father Yitzchok. Yaakov added wine on his own accord. | *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

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Halacha Challenge





On a Shabbos morning, Simcha was walking home from shul with his friends Shmuel and Levi. Suddenly, a strong wind started blowing, and before Simcha knew it, his kippa flew off his head. And where do you

think it landed? Of course, right in the middle of a big puddle!

"Do you think I can pick it up?!" he asked his friends.

"Nope!" replied Shmuel, "I saw in the Shulchan Aruch, that we are not allowed to move a garment that's soaking wet."

"Oh, come on!!" objected Levi, "Obviously, in this case, it's allowed, because Simcha does not have another kippa!"

"Well, he can just cover his head with a sleeve of his jacket," said Shmuel.

Question: Can Simcha pick up his kippa from the puddle and wear it?

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

DEDICATIONS

♦ Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel



THIS PUBLICATION REQUIRES GENIZA

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Parsha Pearls

...וְיַעֲקֹב אִישׁ תַּם ישֵׁב אֹהָלִים...

...And Yaakov was an honest person, dwelling in tents. [Bereishis 25:27]

Rashi explains that *dwelling in tents* is referring to Yaakov's learning in the Yeshivos (tents) of Shem and Eiver.

But this phrase is written in an unsual way. Yaakov's honesty (אַישׁ הָּבוּ is his middah (character trait) while his learning in Yeshivos (ישֵׁב אֹהֶלִים) is his 'occupation'. We would expect the Torah to put some kind of word to separate the two. For example: "And Yaakov was an honest person. He dwelled in tents."

"And Yaakov was an honest person, dwelling in tents" sounds like it's all **one!** It appears that by saying it in such a way, the Torah is teaching us a major lesson: One's success in learning Torah is directly dependent on his honesty!



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

יַנְאַקֹב אֹהֶבֶת אֶת־יַעֲקֹב ...

We would expect this verse to appear later in the parsha, preceding the story of Rivka directing Yaakov in taking blessings that Yitzchok wanted to give to Eisav.

Ask around your Shabbos table: Why is this verse right before the narrative of Eisav selling his birthright to Yaakov?

Menucha's Answer: Initiating the negotiation with Eisav for the purchase of the birthright was a courageous and righteous act. By writing יְרַבְקָה אֹהֶבֶת אָת־יַצְלְב right before this, it appears that the Torah is telling us that the mother's strong love for her child helps him to make correct choices in life.



Rhymes for Kids



Po you know the secret of Yitzehak's wells, which in parshas Toldos he earefully 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? Rebbi Yehuda says: Four. And corresponding to them, his children were formed into four camps. But Rabbanan say: Five wells. They correspond to the Five Books of Torah." (Midrash Bereishis Rabba 64:8)



Parsha Riddle



- 1. We sing in the Adon Olam song: "Hashem is with me, I will not fear." In other words, because Hashem is with me, I don't need to fear anything. This is a fundamental concept in a life of a Torah observant Jew, and one of the sources of this concept is in this week's parsha. Don't be afraid to find it!
- 2. My "please" created a confusion in this week's parsha. Can you please find it?
- 3. Which drink was 'not on the menu' in this week's parsha?