

# Just a Story... *A Stuttering Mincha*

[Source: HaMi'oros HaGedolim, published by Revach LaNashama]



One day, just before Mincha, the Alter of Slabodka ran into Shul, and without missing a beat or stopping for a moment he ran straight for the Amud to be Chazan. This really shocking scene was followed by an even more peculiar one. As he started saying Kaddish he stuttered, swallowed and jumbled the words.

After Mincha, everyone tried to figure out what exactly it was all about. Slowly the story was pieced together and the righteousness of the Alter was revealed. A gentleman in the town became a mourner, and due to his poor reading skills, when he went to the Amud he read the words with great difficulty and was terribly embarrassed.

The Alter showed him that even he can have trouble before the Amud sometimes due to nervousness. In this way, the Alter embarrassed himself to alleviate the pain of another.

**Hints & Answers\*** **Halacha Challenge:** The *Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (55:8) writes, “*Lechatchila, one should make sure that the challah is completely whole. Therefore, one should remove the challah’s sticker only after cutting the challah, in order that the challah should be whole at the time of the Hamotzi blessing.*” And in the footnote, the author writes, “*And when removing the sticker, one should remove a little bit of challah with it, in order not to cut the letters on the sticker.*” **RHYME:** “united”. **RIDDLE:** Sefer Torah scrolls. When they leave the Aron Kodesh (at least 4 times each week) they are taken to the right side of the Aron Kodesh, and when are returned, they are returned from the left side of the Aron Kodesh. **TRIVIA:** 1. Ki Savo (Devorim 27:2) . 2. Yaakov Avinu. When he was sleeping, Hashem folded the entire Land of Israel under him. See Rashi to Bereishis 28:13 **SHMITTA:** TRUE. [based on “A Guide to the Halachos of Shmittah” by Rav A. Wiesenfeld] \*Note: Menucha’s answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions, and further study.

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# Menucha

A Shabbos table companion  
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

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## Halacha Challenge

*When & How to Remove the Challah's sticker*



After making Kiddush, Abba asked everyone to go wash for *hamotzi*. Shortly afterwards, a long line was formed by the kitchen sink. Moishy and Chaim, however, did not want to wait in the line, so they sat next to Abba while waiting for the line to clear. “We’ll go after everyone is done,” they explained to

Abba. They enjoyed watching Abba arranging the challahs on the cutting board to position them “just right” for the *hamotzi* bracha. Then, they noticed Abba looking a bit puzzled. “What’s wrong, Abba?” asked Moishy.

“Well, you see, Moishy, this week, we bought challah in the bakery. And the challah has a sticker on it,” replied Abba as he pointed to the sticker. “Right. And is that a problem?” asked Chaim. “It’s not a problem,” said Abba, “but I am just not used to having a challah with a sticker at our Shabbos table. It just doesn’t look so *heimish*.”

“Abba, so why don’t you remove it?” asked Moishy. “Well, I thought about doing that,” answered Abba, “but then I thought that if I remove it now with a little bit of challah underneath it, the challah won’t be 100% *shalem*...” “Oh now we understand your dilemma, Abba,” said Chaim.

**Question:** Is it better for Abba to remove the sticker only after Hamotzi or it doesn’t matter?

(The “Hints & Answers” section is on page 4)

### DEDICATIONS

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

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## וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּעֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חָרָן

*Yaakov left Be'er Sheva and went to Charan [Bereishis 28:10]*

Midrash Rabba (68:2) teaches that on his journey to Charan, Yaakov Avinu said: *אֶשָּׂא עֵינַי אֶל הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יָבֵא עֲזָרִי* - *I raise my eyes...where will my עֲזָרִי come from?* [Tehillim 121:2] (As insightful side note, *peirush Maharz* says that all 15 of Shir Hama'alos in Tehillim originated from Yaakov Avinu.) The Midrash explains that *עֲזָרִי* (lit. helper) that Yaakov was asking about was his future wife. As we know, the Torah refers to Adam's wife as *עֶזְרָא כְּנָגְדּוֹ*. After asking himself the question "*where will my עֲזָרִי come from?*", Yaakov answered to himself: *עֲזָרִי מֵעַם ה'* - *My עֲזָרִי will come from Hashem.*

Then, the Midrash expounds on the concept of finding one's *zivug*:

*"Rabbi Avahu began the drasha with a verse from Mishlei [19:14]: "A house and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a wise woman is from Hashem."*

*"Rebbi Pinchas said in the name of Rabbi Avahu: We find in Torah, in Prophets and in Writings that a man's wife is [given to him] only from [the direct hashgacha of] HaKadosh Boruch Hu.*

*"From where do we learn it in the Torah? From the verse (Bereishis 24) "Lavan and Besuel answered and said: The matter came from Hashem."*

*"In the Prophets, we learn it from the verse (Shoftim 14:4) "And his father and mother did not know that it was from Hashem..."*

*"In the Writings, we learn it from the verse (Mishlei 19:14) "A house and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a wise woman is from Hashem."*

Eitz Yosef explains the last part of that Midrash in the following way: *טובת האשה אינו במקרה אלא מה' אשה משכלת* - *The virtues of one's wife are not by chance. Rather, "A wise woman is from Hashem."*

With this we can understand what the Midrash said initially: *"A man's wife is only from [direct hashgacha of] HaKadosh Boruch Hu."* — i.e., Everything about a man's wife is a gift to him from the Ribbono Shel Olam.



## Rhymes for Kids



From us you shall learn that peace is beloved.  
A neiss was not spared to make us \_\_\_\_\_!

*"The stones started quarreling with one another. One said, "Let the righteous man (Yaakov) 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 that he had placed at his head." (Peirush Rashi to Bereishis 28:11)*



## Riddle



In our parsha, Yaakov leaves Be'er Sheva...

There are many of them in the world. And they leave their homes at least four times each week. And when they leave their homes, they go to the right, but when they return, they come from the left.

What are they?



## Parsha Trivia



- 12 stones appear 2 times in the Torah. Once in this week's parsha, and once in parshas.....
- There was once a man who laid upon the entire Land of Israel at one time! Who was it?