

Just a Story...

Retrieved from the Sea

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l



The matter that came before the Beis Din (Rabbinical Court) was truly an unusual one. The claimant was Rabbi Safrin, the Admor of Komarna, and the defendant was a young survivor of the Holocaust. The issue was who had the right to a Sefer Torah that belonged to the Komarna Chassidim in pre-war Europe.

The defendant, who was the current possessor of the Sefer Torah, described to the judges how he had saved this sacred scroll by wrapping it around his body and thus concealing it from the enemy as he dashed from place to place. The court ruled in his favor on the basis of the Talmudic ruling that something retrieved from the sea belongs to the finder because its owner has certainly despaired of ever regaining possession.

The claimant accepted the decision but was so interested in bringing the Sefer Torah back to its ancestral home that he paid the defendant a handsome sum of money to relinquish ownership. Thus was the Sefer Torah once again "retrieved from the sea".

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

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** It is permissible to forgive a loan on Shabbos if there is a need to do it today and it's done for a mitzva purpose - such as to bring joy to a friend [See *Piskei Teshuvos* 306:23 and note 156 there]. **RHYME:** "say". **RIDDLES:** לבנת הספיר - a sapphire brick (Shemos 24:10). Rashi writes: "a sapphire brick was before Him at the time of the bondage, to remember Bnei Yisroel's troubles [i.e.,] that they were enslaved in the making of bricks." | *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

Volume 14, Issue 18

Mishpatim

5785

Shmiras Shabbos Forgiving a Loan



אם-יִקְרֶה תַּלְמִיד אֶת-עַמִּי - When you lend money to My people... (Parshas Mishpatim, Shemos 22:24)

"Why do you look sad, Miriam?" asked Nechama as he walked into Miriam's house.

"I wanted to go for a Shabbos walk with you, but look what a downpour we have now!" explained Miriam.

"Oh I see. Well, it's Shabbos. We shouldn't be sad," said Nechama.

"I know, I know," said Miriam, "But what can I do? My emotions overtook me."

Nechama started thinking of what she could do to gladden Miriam. Soon she came up with a plan. She thought to herself: "Last week, I lent some money to Miriam. If I forgive the loan now, that will surely make her happy!" But then she thought for a little more and started thinking that perhaps forgiving a loan is not permissible on Shabbos since it's like a business transaction, and we're not allowed to do business transactions on Shabbos.

Question: Can Nechama forgive the loan?

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

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Parsha Pearls

מִדְבַּר-שָׁקֶר תִּרְחֹק... [שמות כג:ז]

Distance yourself from a lie...[Shemos 23:7]

The Chofetz Chaim in his *sefer Sefas Tamim* (Ch. 7) writes about the incredible benefit of having the *middah* of *temimus* (speaking truthfully and without deception):

“Once it happened that he had to travel to a city whose name was Kushta. The residents of that city would never lie, and as a consequence, nobody died in that city before reaching an old age after having lived a fulfilling life...The point of that story is that anybody who is especially careful in this *middah* of *temimus* will bond during his lifetime to the Living G-d who is the source of truth, and consequently, up until this person reaches an old age, after having lived a satisfying life, the Angel of Death will have no power over him.”



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

...וּבֶשֶׂר בִּשְׂדֵה טָרֶפֶה לֹא תֹאכְלוּ לְכָלֵב תִּשְׁלֹכוּ אֹתוֹ. [שמות כב:ל]

...and flesh torn in the field you shall not eat; you shall throw it to the dog.
[Shemos 22:30]

Ask around your Shabbos table: Typically a sheep gets attacked by a wild animal as a result of the dog that protects the herd not doing its job “well”. If so, why does the Torah tell the shepherd to reward the dog for “a bad job”?

Menucha’s Answer: Although the dog did “a bad job” now, he did “a good job” on many other occasions. The Torah is teaching us a fundamental lesson: Focus on successes. And a time to recall those successes is specifically after a failure.



Rhymes for Kids



כָּל-אַלְמָנָה וְיָתוֹם לֹא תַעֲנוּן - You should not afflict to a widow or orphan.
(Shemos 22:21)

To be a *mentch* is the Torah way
Hurtful words you shouldn't ____.

“Affliction” in the above verse refers to both physical and emotional pain (see Sefer HaChinuch, *mitzva* 65). Commenting on this verse, Rashi says: “*The same applies to all people (i.e., one is not allowed to hurt physically or emotionally any Jew). Here, the Torah speaks of the common situation, since widows and orphans are weak and they are frequently hurt.*”



Riddles



It's a precious gemstone, a building block, and also a sign to remember.

Can you find it in our parsha?

? DID YOU KNOW THAT ?

You probably know that this week's parsha tells us that Moshe Rabbeinu stayed on Har Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights.

But did you know that the two brachos that are said on Krias HaTorah (*Asher Bochar Banu* & *Asher Nosan Lanu*) contain 40 words?! The Tur (OC §139) teaches that Chazal made those brachos have 40 words in order that they should correspond to the 40 days and nights that Moshe Rabbeinu remained on Har Sinai.