



Rav Don Yitzchak Abarbanel (1437-1508, 10th of Av). The Abarbanel was born in Lisbon, Portugal, to an illustrious Sephardic family which traced its lineage back to Dovid Hamelech. When Rav Yitzchak was only 20, he completed his first book, *Ateres Zekeinim*, and began to work on his famous commentary on the Torah.



The Abarbanel served as the treasurer of King Alfonso until he was forced to move to Castile (Spain). In March 1492, following the Spanish conquest of Granada, an edict was issued expelling the Jews from Spain. Despite his political influence, the Abarbanel was unable to prevent the expulsion of 1492, and refused the king's offer to remain at his post, choosing instead to throw his lot in with that of his people. On Tisha B'Av, 1492, he led 300,000 Jews out of the country.

**Hints & Answers\*** **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (23:43) teaches that oiling up noisy hinges of a door is not allowed on Shabbos (because of "tikun manne" - the prohibition of fixing an object). **RHYME** "charm" **RIDDLE:** 1. וְזֶאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם מִשָּׁה לִפְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל (Devorim 4:44). During *Hagbah*, we recite this *pasuk* as we look at the writing in the Sefer Torah and bow (O.C. 134:2, M.B. 134:11). At that moment, if one internalizes the words that he is saying as he is looking at the writing in the Sefer Torah, he strengthens his *emunah* in the truth of the Torah. It's a special, unique opportunity that should not be missed out on. 2. They are soldiers of a Jewish army that captured a city. If they are merely hungry, they can eat non-kosher food which they find in the houses (if no other food is available). [See Rambam, Melachim 8:1. This halacha is based on the verse (Devorim 6:11), "And houses full of all good..."] | \*Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha.

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## Halacha Challenge

### Oiling Up Noisy Hinges of a Door



"This door is noisy," noticed Shimon as he opened the door to enter the house.

"Yeah, the hinges are a bit rusty," agreed Chaim, "They need to be oiled up."

"So let's do it now!" proposed Shimon.

"We can't. It's Shabbos," replied Chaim.

"But what's the problem of just putting oil on hinges?!" asked Shimon.

"Because that special oil that Abba uses to oil his tools is *muktza*," explained Chaim.

"Fine, so let's just use the olive oil from our kitchen," suggested Shimon.

"Hmm...interesting idea, Shimon!" exclaimed Chaim, "But let me think if there are any other issues with this..."

**Question:** Can they pour olive oil on the noisy hinges?

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

#### DEDICATIONS

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

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## Parsha Pearls

לֹא מֵרַבְּכֶם מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים חָשַׁק ה' בָּכֶם וַיִּבְחַר בָּכֶם כִּי־אַתֶּם הַמְעַט מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים.

“Not because you are more numerous than any people **did Hashem desire you and choose you**, for you are **the least of all the peoples**.” - Devorim 7:7

On the words “for you are the least of all the peoples” Rashi comments:

**כי אתם המעט:** הממעטין עצמכם, כגון אברהם, שאמר ואנכי עפר ואפר, וכגון משה ואהרן שאמרו ונחנו מה. [פירוש רש"י]

Hence the words **הַמְעַט כִּי־אַתֶּם** on a *drush* level mean: “You humble yourselves”. Thus, the Torah is revealing to us is that because of our *midda* of humility Hashem desired us and chose us.



## Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

**Ask Around Your Table:** As we know, very often when the *yetzer hara* realizes that it cannot stop you from doing a *mitzva*, it engages in weakening that *mitzva* by making you recall your previous bad deeds and making you feel low, so that you will not do the *mitzva* with inner *simcha*. What can help you fight against such *yetzer hara*?

**Answer:** Tehillim (34:15) says: **סוּר מִרָע וַעֲשֵׂה־טוֹב** - “Move away from the bad, and do good.” Based on the above verse of Tehillim, Rav Mordechai from Lechovitch (one of the founding *chassidic* teachers from whom the Slonim chasidic dynasty sprouted) is quoted to teach the following important lesson in *avodas Hashem*: When you are involved in doing something good (עשה טוב), you should remove from your mind bad thoughts about yourself, i.e., at that moment, you should pretend that you never did anything bad (סור מרע)! This is necessary so that you will always serve Hashem with true joy.



## Rhymes for Kids



Which words of the Torah in our parsha is a person fulfilling when he speaks pleasantly with people? The verse: **וַעֲשֵׂיתָ הַיָּשָׁר וְהַטוֹב בְּעֵינֵי ה'** - *And you should do what's upright and good in the eyes of Hashem* (Devorim 6:18). The Ramban comments on this verse and says that when a person speaks pleasantly with others, he is fulfilling the words of the Torah in that verse!

Pleasant words bring joy and calm

Use them always and you'll win \_\_\_\_



## Parsha Riddle



- Four times during a typical week men say this verse from parshas Va'eschanan. Those who are wise, use the moment when they say this verse to strengthen their *emunah*. Which verse is this referring to?
- “Yaakov—why are you eating that thing?!” asked Chaim in a shocking voice. “Why not?” replied Yaakov calmly. “It’s not kosher!” screamed out Chaim. Yaakov took out his Chumash and pointed to a verse in parshas Va'eschanan. Then, he opened a *halacha sefer*, which references that verse, thereby proving to Chaim that he was not doing anything wrong. Both Yaakov and Chaim are healthy, free men, but both are in a unique situation. What situation are they in?