

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: Electronic toys (e.g., cars, phones, dolls, robots) are in the category of *Kli Shemelachto L'isur* (i.e., a *muktza* category which refers to items that are generally used (during the week) to do *melacha* with them). Generally speaking (although some exceptions apply), a *muktza* item from this category can be moved in order to use it in a permissible way. As such, playing with an electronic toy in a permissible way (e.g., playing with a toy car without activating the electronic switches) is allowed. However, care should be taken to make sure that a child will not activate electronic switches. For example, a parent should remove the batteries from the toy before Shabbos. [See *Piskei Teshuvos* 308, note 330] **RHYMES:** "quick" **RIDDLE:** Avraham Avinu. He prayed for Avimelech's family members to be able to give birth. And after that prayer, Avraham was blessed first, namely, that Sarah gave birth to Yitzchok (See Rashi to 21:1) . | *not intended to teach final decisions in *halacha*.

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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



Playing with a Battery-Operated Toy Phone on Shabbos



Four-year-old Miriam was so happy to receive a toy cell phone as a present for her birthday. Her birthday was on Sunday, and she played with the phone all week long. On erev Shabbos, her brother Avromy said to her: "I bet you'll miss your phone on Shabbos..." To which Miriam replied: "Why should I miss it?! I'll play with it on Shabbos!"

"You can't!" stated Avromy, "When you press buttons, it makes sounds."

"So I'll play with it without pressing the buttons!" said Miriam.

"I think even if you are not planning to press the buttons you still cannot play it on Shabbos, because it's a toy that's made to press on electronic buttons," said Avromy.

"And what if Abba will take out the batteries before Shabbos?" asked Miriam.

"Hmm...I am not sure," replied Avromy honestly.

Question: Can Miriam play with the toy phone on Shabbos, if the batteries will be removed from it before Shabbos?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls

וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אֲבִרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִי בְנִי

And Yitzchak spoke to Abraham his father, and he said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." (Bereishis 22:7)

Seforim tell us that when something appears in the Torah for the first time, it has great significance, because we learn its true meaning and definition. "Here I am, my son" are the first words recorded in the Torah where Avraham speaks to Yitzchak. In fact, these are the first words in the Torah where a Jewish father speaks to his son! Hence, these words carry a fundamental lesson in them - they teach a person how he should view his role as a father in relation to his child: It is a role of **הֲנִי בְנִי** - **"Here I am, my son"** - "I am here for you, always. I am always ready and prepared to give to you what you need, because you are my precious, dear son."



Rhymes for Kids



Bikur Cholim means to visit the sick,

It helps the *eholim* to recover _____!

"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!



Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

שִׁמְרָה טוֹב יִבְקֹשׁ רֵצוֹן, וְדִרְשׁ רָעָה תְּבוּאָתוֹ

Mishlei 11:27

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

Answer: Midrash *Shocheh Tov* on Mishlei (parsha 11) explains this verse in the following way: When Reuven speaks well about his friend Shimon, then (at that exact time) angels 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 (at that time).



Riddle



In this parsha, he prayed for someone, and he was blessed first. Who is he and whom did he pray for?

[Hint: Rashi tells us that from that episode we learn the following important lesson: "Whoever begs for mercy for his friend, when he needs the same thing, he is answered first."]