

## Just a Story...

A Rav in England had a friend who was a lawyer, and who knew very little about Yiddishkeit. Once, this lawyer approached the Rav with a very serious dilemma. He was currently defending a non-Jew who had become involved in criminal activities. This man was extremely cunning and deceitful, and the judge who saw right through his lies, decided to prosecute his lawyer as well. It is common practice in England that the judges can implicate the lawyers, to ensure that they do not become tainted by their clients' wrongdoings. This lawyer was in great danger of not only of losing his right to practice his profession, but of also of receiving a heavy punishment and fine. The Rav said to him, "Listen, my friend, the best advice I can give you is to do what all of Klal Yisroel does. Simply *daven* to the Ribbono shel Olom, and He'll save you from this *tzara*." The lawyer replied, "I should ask Hashem? It's not possible, and I'll tell you why. Once I already asked for help from Him, and I promised that I wouldn't ask for anything else."

The lawyer explained that a few years prior, he traveled to Australia for work, and stayed there for six months. While in Australia, his only daughter, who was then seven years old, suddenly became critically ill. The distraught father decided immediately to find a shul. Despite his ignorance of Yiddishkeit, he remembered that when he became Bar Mitzvah, his father took him to shul. He searched for a shul, and eventually found one, which was unlocked. It was the middle of the day, and the shul was empty. He burst out crying and continued crying without a stop for two hours. Amidst his tears he said, "Hashem, I need to ask You something, and I promise You that I'll never ask for anything else. I ask of You that my beloved daughter remain alive." Eventually, the lawyer felt a sense of relief, and returned to the hospital. He was greeted at the hospital with miraculous news - his daughter had opened her eyes. She began improving little by little, and eventually fully recovered. In fact, her new medical exams showed full recovery, and even the doctors admitted that it was a complete miracle. The lawyer concluded: "I promised Hashem never to ask for anything else. How can I break my promise?" The Rav said, "Your promise is not valid! Hashem is not a person. You can continue to request whatever you need from Him." The lawyer followed his advice, and was declared innocent. [source: Revach L'neshama]

**Hints & Answers\*** **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa (15:37) teaches the following *halacha*: "A raincoat that is made from fabric or גרמיץ צופה גוי has a status of a garment that people don't care [if it gets soaked with water.] [And therefore], it is permitted to shake it, [but] not strongly." **RHYME:** "toy", "shoe". **RIDDLE:** There should be a minimum of seven Kaddishim every day, corresponding to what is written in Tehillim (119:164), "I praise You seven times daily" [Mishnah Berurah 55:5] Try the following advise: As you answer a kaddish with *kavana*, add 1 to your count. Once you reach 7 on that day, you've emulated David HaMelech - you praised Hashem in a complete way, because 7 represents a complete unit.

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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



"I love when it rains in Eretz Yisroel!" shouted Simcha as he came in the door on a Friday night. His raincoat was covered with rain drops.

Shimon looked at Simcha and said, "You're lucky that you were wearing a raincoat!"

"Boruch Hashem, I remembered to bring it with me to shul," said Simcha. "But what should I do with it now? If I hang it on the hook where I usually hang it, the water that will drip from it will create a puddle under it!"

"Why don't you go on the porch and shake the raincoat to get the rain water off of it?" asked Shimon.

**Question:** May Simcha follow Shimon's advice and shake the water off his raincoat?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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## Parsha Pearls

וַיָּלֶן שָׁם בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא וַיִּקַּח מִן הַבָּא בְיָדוֹ מִנְחָה לַעֲשׂוֹ אָחִיו. (בראשית לב:יד)

*He spent the night there, then he took, from that which had come in his hand, a tribute to Eisav his brother. (Bereishis 32:14)*

Why does the Torah inform us that Yaakov Avinu spent the night “there” - i.e., in the place where he prayed to Hashem to save him from Eisav? If the Torah wants to tell us that Yaakov sent gifts to Eisav on the following day, the Torah could have simply stated, “And on the following day he took...” By writing “וַיָּלֶן שָׁם בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא” the Torah is telling us that it’s important for us to know that Yaakov spent the night there. Quoting the opinion of the Ra’aya, the Malbim writes that Yaakov Avinu stayed overnight there and slept there in hope of seeing a prophecy in his dream - the answer from Hashem to his last tefilla.

But how could Yaakov Avinu fall asleep on that night?! On that day, he was informed that Eisav was coming towards him with 400 men (Targum Yonasan ben Uziel explains that those were 400 soldiers), he prepared for a military attack by splitting his family into two camps, and he prayed to Hashem to save his life and the lives of his wives and children. It was a day of great turmoil. Yet, right after the last verse of Yaakov’s tefilla, the Torah tells us that “he spent the night there” (and fell asleep). Yaakov Avinu was able to sleep on that night because after doing what he could to address the imminent danger, he put his trust in HaKadosh Boruch and regained his calm.

We learn from Yaakov Avinu’s fear, preparation for the battle, tefilla and *bitachon* an important lesson of how to deal with life’s challenges. Step one: Acknowledge the challenge itself and the feelings and emotions that it awakens (The Torah does not hide the fact that Yaakov was scared). Step two: Do something proactive to address the challenge — i.e., the *hishtadlus* that you feel is needed in this situation. And don’t forget to include tefilla as part of that *hishtadlus*! Step three: Regain your calm by putting your trust and hope in Hashem’s great kindness.



## Rhymes for Kids



*“קִטְנֹתִי מִכָּל הַחֲסָדִים - I have become humbled from **all** the kindnesses... [that You, Hashem have bestowed upon me]” (parshas Vayishlach, Bereishis 32:11)*

Do you know what I love? What gives my soul joy?  
Of course! Getting for Chanuka a new, fun \_\_\_\_!  
But Yaakov Avinu taught us a BIG secret:  
The **SMALL** good things are very frequent!  
Notice **all** of Hashem’s kind acts to you  
Yes - even a shoelace of your left \_\_\_\_!



## Riddle



**Intro to the riddle:** In the beginning of this week’s parsha, when Yaakov Avinu was already in Eisav’s eye view, the Torah says: “*and he [Yaakov] prostrated himself to the ground seven times.*” Why specifically **seven** times, and why does the Torah need to inform us of the specific number of bows that Yaakov Avinu did? It appears that the Torah is letting us know that by bowing seven times, Yaakov showed to Eisav that he is *completely* humbled in front of him, because number “7” signifies a complete unit—for example: 7 days of the week, 7 years in the Shmittah cycle, etc.

**Riddle:** There are many things that we do for Hashem in tefilla once each day (e.g., *Pesukei Dezimra*). There are also some things that we do for Hashem in tefilla twice each day (e.g., *Krias Sh’m’a*). But what is something that we need to do for Hashem in tefilla (at least) **seven** times each day?!