

# Just a Story... A Reliable Guarantor

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l



... אִם־קָسֶף תַּלְוִה אֶת־עֲמָלֵךְ - *When you lend money to My people...* (parshas Mishpatim, Shemos 22:24)

"I desperately need a loan for a half year," said the newcomer to Yeshaya Jochovitzer. "Since I am new here, I cannot provide any guarantor. Only Hashem knows that I am an honest person and He can be my guarantor."

"There is no better guarantor," said Yeshaya as he extended the requested loan.

Half a year later the borrower smilingly returned to repay the loan, adding that the money had helped him to succeed in his business. But Yeshaya refused to accept the money, explaining that the Divine Guarantor had already repaid the loan by blessing him with an unexpected profit in the exact amount of the loan.

(A similar tale regarding Rabbi Akiva is found in the commentaries in the Mesechta Nedarim 50a.)

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

**Hints & Answers\*** **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** The *Rama* (O.C. 262:1) teaches that the tablecloth should be on the table throughout the whole Shabbos. And the *Mishna Berura* (262:4) adds that the tablecloth can be removed only after *havdala*. | \* *Menucha answers are not intended to be used as final decisions in halacha, but rather as catalysts for discussions and further study.* **RHYMES:** "say" **RIDDLES:** Yossi was counting the words in the two brachos that are said by *Krias HaTorah* ("Asher Bochar Banu" & "Asher Nosan Lanu"). The *Tur* (OC §139) teaches that Chazal made those *brachos* contain 40 words—no more, no less—in order to correspond to the 40 days that Moshe Rabbeinu remained on Har Sinai. | \* *Menucha answers are not intended to be used as final decisions in halacha, but rather as catalysts for discussions and further study.*

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# Menucha

A Shabbos table companion  
for the whole family  
לע"ג ר' ברוך חיים בן סלמון ז"ל

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## Halacha Challenge

### Removing the Tablecloth on Motzei Shabbos



"Let's make fresh bread rolls for Melave Malka!" said Imma to the kids as she removed the dough from the fridge on motzei Shabbos. "I made extra dough on erev Shabbos," she explained.

"Yes! Thank you, Imma," thanked Chaim, and said, "Imma, we'll braid the rolls and put them in the oven, while you go rest."

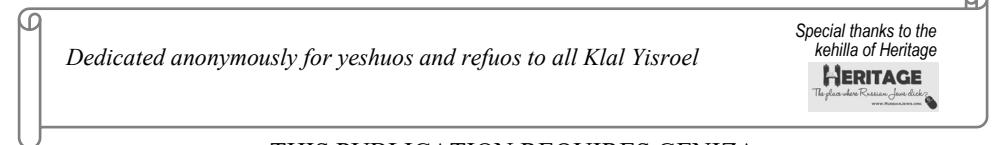
When Imma was out of the room, Chaim ran to the table and wanted to remove the tablecloth so that they could braid the dough on the table.

"What are you doing?!" asked his sister Miriam, "Abba did not make Havdalah yet!"

Chaim turned to Miriam and said, "As long as 3 stars are in the sky, we can remove the table cloth."

**Question:** Who is right, Chaim or Miriam?

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



THIS PUBLICATION REQUIRES GENIZA



### Adar Treasures

With Rosh Chodesh Adar we are starting a very important period in the year. **משונכָּנָה אַדָּר מְרַבֵּין בְּשִׁמְחָה** - "Once Adar enters, we increase in joy" (*Ta'anis* 29a).

Why?

Let's recall that Nissan is called the 1st month in the 12 months cycle. Based on that, the *Sefas Emes* (*Shekalim*, 5631) points out that just like Elul, which comes before the beginning of a new year, is a month of *teshuva*, so too, Adar, which comes before the beginning of a new cycle of the 12 months, is a month of *teshuva*.

But the *Sefas Emes* teaches that Adar has a very unique aspect to it: Adar is a time of *teshuva me'ahava*! What is *teshuva me'ahava*? It's our returning to fulfilling our true mission in the world out of love for Hashem. Such awakening of desire to do Hashem's will is true *simcha*. It is for this reason, explains the *Sefas Emes* that **משונכָּנָה אַדָּר מְרַבֵּין בְּשִׁמְחָה** "Once Adar enters, we increase in joy."



### Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

**וּבְשָׂר בְּשָׂדֶה טְרֵפָה לֹא תְאַכֵּל לְכַלֵּב תַּשְׁלִיכֵנָה 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



**כל-אֶלְמָנָה וִיתּוּם 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."



### Riddle



The last verse of this week's parsha tells us that Moshe Rabbeinu remained on Har Sinai for forty days...

Yossi likes to count. Today when he was sitting next to his father in shul, he opened his *siddur* to a random page and started counting the words.

"One, two, three,..., thirty nine, and forty!" counted Yossi. "Abba, look! There are 40 words, here!"

Yossi's father looked inside and said: "Correct! And the reason for why there are 40 words here, is because Moshe Rabbeinu remained on Har Sinai for 40 days!"

What was Yossi counting?