



The Missing Dowry

... וְשֵׁי אֶרֶז וְשֵׁנִי תוֹלַעַת וְאַזֹּב (ויקרא יד: ד')

... a piece of cedar wood, and thread of scarlet [wool] and [a bunch of] hyssop

רש"י explains that cedar wood was required for the מצורע's purification, alluding to the fact that afflictions of צרעת come because of haughtiness. His כפרה entailed using שני תולעת — crimson wool and azob — hyssop, for they served as reminders to the מצורע that his remedy lay in lowering himself like a worm (תולעת means both dyed wool, as in our פסוק, and worm) and like hyssop — a low-growing shrub.

Throughout the generations, גדולי ישראל have always possessed the trait of humility, devising various strategies with which to protect themselves against succumbing to the מדה of haughtiness.

Reb Zusia was extremely poor and had no steady means with which to earn a livelihood. When his daughter came of age, he lacked the necessary funds to marry her off. His family urged him to make an effort to secure the money needed for her dowry, but Reb Zusia placed his trust in הקבי"ה and did not worry about it at all.

One day, Reb Zusia went to see his רבי, the Maggid of Mezerich. "I know that you lack the money to marry off your daughter," the Maggid said. "Here are 500 rubles; may Heaven help you find a suitable חתן." On his way home, Reb Zusia stopped at an inn where a small wedding was just getting underway. Suddenly he heard sounds of commotion and bitter weeping.

Reb Zusia asked the innkeeper, "What happened?"

The man replied, "An orphaned girl was about to be married, but, just now, prior to the חופה, her mother discovered that she had misplaced the dowry money — the 500 rubles that she collected with so much effort was gone. The חתן, who is also an impoverished orphan, let them know that if he did not immediately receive the full amount of the dowry originally promised, then he could not go through with the marriage."

Reb Zusia made his way into the large room where the people had gathered and announced, "רבותי, I have found the money." Immediately the tumult turned from one of great sorrow to one of pure joy. The crowd was relieved and ecstatic that these two orphaned children's wedding would proceed on time after all!

Reb Zusia, however, informed everyone that he would like 50 rubles as compensation for his efforts in finding the missing money. Shocked by his request, a few people tried to convince him to show some level of compassion for the poor כלה. However, R' Zusia could not be persuaded.

It was not long before the commotion grew heated. "Are you not ashamed?" they yelled at him. "Is there no mercy in your heart for a poor, orphaned כלה?" But Reb Zusia stood firm in his bizarre request — 50 rubles for the money's return.

The people finally took Reb Zusia by force to the רב of the town, who carefully listened to the unusual case. He ruled that the entire sum be returned at once, without a cent going to Reb Zusia. Reb Zusia handed over the money and was expelled from town in utter disgrace.

Several days later, word of the incident reached the ears of the Maggid. He summoned Reb Zusia and asked him, "Why did you act in such a manner? Could it be true — you had no mercy towards a poor and orphaned כלה?"

"When I saw the orphaned כלה's misery," replied Reb Zusia, "I took pity on her situation and immediately decided to give her the entire sum of money. However, when I entered my room to get the money, the יצר הרע began to put various ideas into my head: 'Zusia,' he said, 'you are as great as אברהם אבינו,' and other such thoughts.

"Do you want me to succumb to haughtiness?" I asked myself. 'יצר הרע. 'I'll show you! This מצנה does not need you to get involved! You will yet see how they will take the money from me and banish me from the town in disgrace.' And that is just what happened."

Adapted from: **A Shabbos Vort** (with kind permission from ArtScroll)

Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד,

R' Pinchos Dunner שליט"א relates an inspirational episode that happened with his zeide, R' Yosef Tzvi Dunner זצ"ל, in Germany on the fateful night of November 9th, 1938. That horrific night became known as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) in the annals of World history:

R' Yosef Tzvi was arrested as part of the Kristallnacht pogrom. However, The Nazi authorities ימ"ש were prevented from moving him to the Dachau concentration camp as that entailed a land journey through Poland, which miraculously "refused" to allow access to its territory for the transport of political prisoners. His wife then contacted R' Solomon Schonfeld in London, who obtained a precious rabbi's

visa for R' Yosef Tzvi Dunner and his young family.

R' Pinchos once asked his zeide to describe the Kristallnacht experience to him. What was zeide thinking as he went through it? He had committed no crime, and yet his freedom was being taken away, and his life was in grave danger.

Zeide pondered over the questions for a moment, and then looked at his grandson. "I felt very lucky," he said.

His zeide must have seen the surprise on his einikel's face, so he explained what he meant.

"You see, when they eventually put me in a cell, I knew it was going to be with somebody else. That person could have been anybody. For example, it

might easily have been an anti-Semitic criminal who could have hurt me, or even killed me. But I was lucky. My cellmate turned out to be my dear friend, Martin Miloslawer, the cantor from the big synagogue. He knew all the prayers by heart, and I knew משניות by heart, so we prayed together, and we studied together — and I really felt very lucky."

My תלמיד, it takes great בטחון and יראת שמים to see ד's hand when one was saved from a danger. Imagine the בטחון and יראת שמים to feel ד's hand while still in mortal danger? This episode is a glimpse of the greatness of R' Yosef Tzvi Dunner זצ"ל!

הי זכרו ברוך!

בגידיות,

Your רבי

A letter from a Rebbe, based on interviews



עניני דיומא: הלכות סדר ליל פסח

- The סדר table should be set with the best dishes, during the day, so that the סדר can begin on time.
- There are authorities that are of the opinion that only one סדר plate should be set, before the leader of the סדר; others disagree.
- Each סדר participant's cup should be poured by someone else to symbolize the majesty of the evening.
- It is preferable to drink the entire cup of wine for each כוס. The minimum amount that one must drink is a רוב רביעית.
- A *child under מצוה*, *קטן*, does not need to drink a full רביעית; it is fine if he drinks a volume of wine that would fill his mouth.
- It is most important for a child to ask the questions about the reasons for the מצה, מרור, the dippings, הסבה and to understand the answers. [Ed. Note for תלמידים: Think of one question that is not on any of your sheets.]
- Once one recites the ברכה over the מצה, one may not speak about matters which have no relevance to the meal until AFTER one finishes eating the פורק sandwich.

Questions of the week

1. When was it that the כנענים hid their wealth in the walls of their homes?
2. Which פלי is the תורה in fact concerned about by requiring the removal of all פלים BEFORE the house is declared טמא?



1. The ארזים hid their wealth in the walls of their homes during the 40 years that they did not want to benefit from the spoils (אמזלזל) — 14:34).
2. The ארזים hid their wealth in the walls of their homes during the 40 years that they did not want to benefit from the spoils (אמזלזל) — 14:34).

10th Annual International Pirchei Hag Contest

This is the final week of the 10th international Pirchei Hag contest. Our contest learning will focus on your learning some of the practical הלכות of פסח.

1) Starting פורים, begin learning at least two קצור שלחן ערוך in הלכות פסח from הלכות פסח every day until ערב פסח (29 days). The two practical סימנים ערוך to be completed twice (totaling 23 סימנים x2) chosen for the contest are: סימן קי"ח (הכנת הסדר - י"א סעיפים) and סימן קי"ט (סדר ליל סדר - י"ב סעיפים).

Those who finish all the סימנים (along with completing תרגום per grade level) before פסח can review what they learned in the remaining days of the contest. To join/participate, please send a signed weekly fax to 718 506 9633 — include grade, name, school, city, state, contact # — or email: shnayimmikracontest@gmail.com.

The contestants as of press time are listed below (winners to be announced after טוב):

Grade 1 — Aryeh Leib haCohen Schwartz; Yeshivas M'kor Boruch; Passaic, NJ;

Grade 5 — Yosef Shalom Stern; Yeshiva Ketana of LA; Los Angeles, CA; Kalman Singer; Rambam Day School; Savannah, GA; Avraham Abramson, Sheftel Beren, Aaron Bernstein, Shmuel Blashka, Yisrael Matan Cline, Yaakov Danziger, Aharon Flax, Izzy Greenberg, Avraham Hakakian, Elisha Hirsch, Yaakov Karimov, Abraham Kassin, Hershel Meir Kopel, Yehoshua Lavi, Tuvia Shalom Schwarz, Menachem Sonnenblick, Yaakov Weiss, Yehoshua Alexander Zelikovich; Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim (TA); Yehuda Frieman, Kalman Hefter, Chaim Katz, Daniel Kraines, Naftali Kraines, Zevi Minkin, Yaakov Pianko, Eliyahu Rayman; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD.

Grade 6 — Avrohom Goldman; Rambam Day School; Savannah, GA; Yoel Goldstein, Akiva Morris, Reuven Newman, Yakov Newmark, Yehuda Rubin, Noach Salzberg, Avi Scherer, Dovi Shulman, Baruch Tessler; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD; Meshilem Zev Fisher; Talmud Torah Ohr Moshe; Brooklyn, NY.

Grade 7 — Shalom Barth, Netanel Berkowitz, Betzalel Cohen, Nosson Tzvi Fogel, Daniel Herman, Shraga Kraines, Akiva Krohn, Chaim Newmark, Yaakov Paige, Yaakov Tzvi Rayman, Eliezer Dov Saitowitz, Akiva Asher Shafranovich; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD;

Grade 8 — Dovi Nitekman, Zevi Weinberg; Rambam Day School; Savannah, GA; Akiva Horan, Moshe Kraines, Yakir Lazar, Shmuel Morris, Yitzchok Rayman; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD; Avrohom Chaim Toplan; Yeshiva Ketana of Bensonhurst; Brooklyn, NY.



LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בס"ט
PIRCHEI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

AFTER WWII, THE KLAUSENBERGER REBBE, R' YEKUSIEL YEHUDAH HALBERSTAM ZT"L, MOVED TO WILLIAMSBURG, NY. HE REBUILT HIS CHASSIDUS FROM THE ASHES AND LED HIS CHASSIDIM BY DELIVERING THE DERECH OF HIS GREAT ANCESTORS.

RABBOSAI, IT'S EREV PESACH AND IT'S OUR MINHAS TO EAT EREV PESACH MATZOS BAKED AFTER CHATZOS!

REBBE, WE ARE READY TO GO, BUT THE MATZAH BAKERY IN WILLIAMSBURG IS CLOSED. HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?

WITH THE HELP OF HASHEM!

THE REBBE CALLED THE OWNERS OF THE BAKERY AND NEGOTIATED WITH THEM TO REOPEN THE BAKERY ON EREV PESACH.

HOIDU LASHEM, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL. LET'S GO NOW.

B"H! WHAT A SPECIAL ZECHUS WE'VE BEEN GIVEN IN THIS NEW COUNTRY!

THE REBBE WAS B'SIMCHA AND HIS CHASSIDIM BAKING THAT EREV PESACH WAS SOMETHING THEY WOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER.

B'TZEIS YISROEL MIMITZRAYIM....

THE REBBE WAS B'SIMCHA BUT EXHAUSTED. AS HE WAS WALKING HOME WITH A SMALL ENTOURAGE OF CHASSIDIM, HE PASSED THE YESHIVA.

THIS YEAR WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN SO MANY YEARS THAT WILL BE ABLE TO DO AS OUR FOREFATHERS DID AND FOLLOW THE OPINION OF RASHI TO ONLY USE EREV PESACH MATZOS AT THE SEDER!

OH! I MUST CHECK THE FOOD THE BOCHURIM ARE BEING SERVED FOR YOM TOV!

???

THIS IS NOT ENOUGH! I MUST PREPARE MORE FOR THE BOCHURIM! WHERE IS AN APRON?

SHOULD THE REBBE BECOME A COOK?... APRON?

AND IF I DO? IS BAKING MATZOS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FEEDING A BEN TORAH?...AND IF YOU FEEL THAT THIS TASK IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A HAND?

THE REBBE'S LOVE FOR TORAH AND HIS SENSITIVITY TOWARDS OTHERS ARE JUST SOME OF THE ETERNAL MESSAGES WE MUST APPLY TO OUR DAILY LIVES.

THE KLAUSENBERGER REBBE, R' YEKUSIEL YEHUDAH HALBERSTAM זצ"ל, A GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE דברי חיים OF SANZ, WAS BORN IN RUDNIK, POLAND, ON 13th NISAN 5600. ORPHANED OF HIS FATHER AT THE AGE OF 13, HE MARRIED A COUSIN, פסיק טשטלבוים, IN 1921. IN 1925, HE WAS APPOINTED AS THE רב OF THE CHASSIDUS IN KLAUSENBERG, WHERE HE ALSO SERVED AS THE ראש ישיבה. THE REBBE LOST HIS WIFE פסיק AND THEIR 11 CHILDREN DURING/SOON AFTER WWII. THE REBBE PLEDGED TO HIMSELF THAT IF HE SURVIVED THE WAR, HE WOULD OPEN A HOSPITAL, WHICH HE EVENTUALLY DID. R' YEKUSIEL YEHUDAH CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1946, AND LIVED IN WILLIAMSBURG. HE MARRIED HIS 2ND WIFE, חנה נחמה, IN 1947. IN 1958, THE REBBE ESTABLISHED THE KIRYAT SANZ NEIGHBORHOOD IN נתניה, ISRAEL. THE REBBE EMIGRATED TO ישראֵל IN 1960 AND FOUNDED LANIADO HOSPITAL IN נתניה IN 1975, AFTER 15 YEARS OF FUND-RAISING. IN 1982, HE FOUNDED הש"ס DURING HIS LAST 15 YEARS, THE REBBE FOUNDED חסידות ישראֵל IN כולל ישראֵל AND IN THE UNITED STATES. HIS ישראֵל WAS LEGENDARY. A PROLIFIC מחבר, HE WROTE THE MULTI-VOLUME שפע חיים AND MANY OTHER ספרים.



For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yeshaya Suval

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