



DELVING DEEPER

RABBI ZALMY EPSTEIN

Taken with Kindness



[Yaakov] called his son, Yosef, and said to him, "Please, if I find favor in your eyes... do **kindness and truth** with me—please don't bury me in Egypt." (47:29)

Doing kindness for the deceased is **true kindness**, because the benefactor does not expect reciprocation. (Rashi, quoting the Midrash)

RABBI YERUCHAM LEVOVITZ ZT"l EXTENDS THIS notion of "true" kindness with a powerful,

if counterintuitive, insight. When someone does a favor for his friend, he should *not* say, "Don't worry—you don't have to pay me back for this favor." If he does say that, he may make his friend feel forever indebted to him, which can be a very uncomfortable position!

Instead, says R' Yerucham, when someone does his friend a favor, he should be willing to accept something in return. This way, he will clear his friend's "debt" to him. Only then will his favor be considered a true kindness! 📖

A HALACHA FROM THE PARASHA

RABBI CHAIM HEINEMANN

THE CHILDREN OF MACHIR, SON OF MENASHE, WERE ALSO BORN ON YOSEF'S KNEES. (50:23)

According to Targum Yonasan, this means Yosef was *Sandak* at their circumcisions.

A *Sandak* is the person who holds a baby boy while the actual circumcision is performed. The Hebrew "*Sandak*" comes from Greek—either the word *suntekos*, which means "companion of the child," or *sundiko*, "patron of the child."

Being designated *Sandak* is considered the preeminent honor at a *b'ris mila* (circumcision). Indeed, the *Sandak* is often referred to as "*Ba'al haB'ris*" (the person making the *b'ris*). Aside from donning a Tallis, he should wear Shabbos clothes, since the day of the *b'ris* is like a holiday for him—even if the *b'ris* falls out on Tish'a b'Av! (O.C. 559:7)

The *Sandak* should be a G-d-fearing, righteous man, pure of thought and worthy of sitting next to the prophet Eliyahu, who attends every *b'ris*. (*Migdal Oz* 9) Our Sages also teach that the *Sandak's* good qualities are passed to the baby. (*Maharil*) Therefore, many honor the grandparents or the rabbi with being *Sandak*. In many Sephardic communities, the father himself acts as *Sandak*.

The Vilna Gaon (Y.D. 265:44) cites a Midrash, which explains that the *Sandak's* role is patterned after King David, who said to G-d, "With every part of my body I serve you. On my head I wear tefillin... with my lips I pray... upon my neck I wear tzitzis... and, as *Sandak*, I place children on my knees during their circumcisions..."

➡ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE ➡

THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

On **15 Teves, 5623** (1863), General Order No. 11 was rescinded. General Ulysses S. Grant had issued the General Order in December of 1862, expelling all Jews from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi, states under his command at that point in the Civil War. Grant falsely claimed that Jewish merchants were organizing a black market to sell Southern cotton to Northern textile mills without the required trade licenses, which were issued by the local commander. Jewish protest rallies were held in St. Louis, Louisville, and Cincinnati, and telegrams were sent to the White House from the Jews of Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. Cesar Kaskel, one of the Jews evicted from Paducah, Kentucky, went with Cincinnati Congressman John A. Gurley directly to the White House. President Lincoln immediately demanded that Grant revoke his order. Three days later, Grant sent out a telegram: "By direction of the General in Chief of the Army at Washington, the General Order from these Head Quarters expelling Jews from this Department is hereby revoked." 📖



Rabbi Yitzchok Preis studies with Barry Wolfson & Brian Friedman

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A HALACHA FROM THE PARASHA

(CONTINUED)

Furthermore, the Rama (Y.D. 265:11) tells us that the role of the *Sandak* at a *B'ris* is equated with that of a Kohein offering the daily Incense in the Temple.

This comparison of a *Sandak* to a Kohein has led to a dispute between halachic authorities. The Rama rules that, just as a Kohein was only allowed to offer the Incense once, a father should not appoint someone as *Sandak* for two of his children. Other authorities, however, have no problem with it at all. (*Noda b'Yehudah* Y.D. 86) Some differentiate (for various reasons) between a community's rabbi, who may be honored more than once, and a layman, who is limited to one time. (*Chassam Sofer* O.C. 158-159)

Aruch haShulchan (Y.D. 265:34) writes that this last opinion seems to be the common custom, and that it has roots in Kabbalistic teachings. Indeed, I have heard from reliable sources that many recent, late Torah luminaries would often act as *Sandak* for two brothers. Perhaps it also explains why Yosef could be the *Sandak* for multiple great grandchildren—he was both the Viceroy and a great Torah scholar. 📖

A RIDDLE FOR YOU

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Ohr Somayach Institutions (Jerusalem)

Name three couples in the Torah, whose Hebrew names start with the same letter (one letter per couple).

The answer will appear next week's edition.

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE:

Q In what prayer do we say 24 words in a row that end with the Hebrew letter *chaf*?

A In *Kiddush Levana*, the Sanctification the New Moon, we say "*Baruch Yotzraych, baruch Osaych, baruch Konaych, baruch Boraych,*" ("Blessed is your Fashioner, blessed is your Maker, blessed is your Owner, blessed is your Creator") three times. 📖

At the Kollel

EVERY DAY

EVERY WEEK

Sunday *Free brunch!*

👉 Boys' Learning Program

for fourth, fifth, & sixth graders—
Mishnayos (Mas. Pe'ah and Sukkah),
and Sh'muel I

Rabbis Moshe Fuchs
and Izy Newmark..... 9–10 AM
*Parents who are interested can e-mail
Rabbi Fuchs—splashwen@gmail.com*

👉 Beginner's Gemara (Maseches Sukkah)

Rabbi Ezra Stettin..... 9:10–10 AM

👉 Beginner's Halacha & More (skills-building)

Rabbi Moshe D. Zeffren.. 9:30–10:30 AM

👉 Shivti (Self-contained learning, geared toward practical halacha)

Rabbi Avrohom Weinrib..... 10 AM–noon

Monday

👤👉 **Torah Treasures for Seniors at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis..... 10:30–11:15 AM

Tuesday

👤👉 **Partners in Torah at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Michael Soroka..... 8 PM

Wednesday

👤👉 **Downtown Lunch-n-Learn at Strauss & Troy**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis..... 12–1 PM

Thursday

👤👉 **Halacha**
in the former Back Office
Rabbi Chaim Heinemann..... 9:10–10 PM
Homemade refreshments served.

KEY: 👉 Beginners 👤 Intermediate 👤 Advanced 👤 for men and women

Chavrusos are available for private and group learning—
speak to Rabbi Chaim Heinemann! weekdays noon–1 PM • Sun.–Thurs. 8–9:45 PM

DAVENING TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT CINCYKOLLEL.ORG/MINYAN-SCHEDULE/

GREAT ACTS OF SIMPLE PEOPLE

A WEALTHY MAN LAY ON HIS DEATHBED, WITH his children surrounding him.

"I have two last requests," he said in a weak voice.

"The first is that you don't open my will until the *sh'loshim* (one month after his burial).

"The second is that you bury me with my socks on."

"But Dad," one son protested, "halacha doesn't allow such a thing."

"I don't care," he said. "That's what I want."

When he passed away, soon afterward, the children consulted their Rabbi, who told them that their father's wish could not be fulfilled. He was buried without the socks.

The children remained perplexed.

At the *sh'loshim*, they opened his will.

"My dear children, I left you a lot of money and a large estate," their father's will read. "I wanted you to realize, before

dividing it up, that, in the end, you can't take any of it with you—not even your socks. Love, Dad."

(Source: *Impact!* Vol. 4) 📖

PARASHA PONDERABLE

RABBI CHAIM HEINEMANN

YAAKOV SAID TO YOSEF... "WHEN I CAME FROM PADAN, RACHEL DIED... AND I BURIED HER ON THE ROAD. (28:11)

Rashi explains that Yaakov told Yosef that he had buried Rachel there so that, centuries later, she would beseech G-d on behalf of the Jewish people as they passed by on their way into exile.

Why wouldn't Rachel intervene for the Jewish people if she were buried in the land of Israel? 📖

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See Rabbi Heinemann or Rabbi Crystal, or e-mail parasha@cincykollel.org.