

## A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA

# Not A Level Playing Field


FEALTY TO HASHEM AND HIS TORAH REQUIRES us to struggle with the way in which we engage with the world around us. Hashem's creation, His creatures and the wisdom He has endowed people with are all wondrous things. Yet this world around us is fraught with allures and dangers that confront a person wanting to remain loyal to Hashem and His Torah.

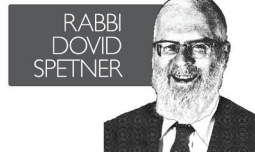
Can we simply trust in our *bechira chofshis*—our free will—to make the right decisions? Is being a responsible adult enough for us to rely on?

Two of the most symbolic *mitzvos* are described together in this *parasha*. The *mitzvah* of *tefillin* and the *mitzvah* of *mezuzah*. What is the function of these *mitzvos*?

The *Sefer Hachinuch* shares a fascinating insight with us. He writes that our world is not a level playing field between the physi-

cal and the spiritual. On the contrary, the *neshama*—the soul—is at a great disadvantage in our world. He writes that the physical body is naturally attracted to pleasure and our spiritual soul is actually operating in foreign territory, without the environment and resources that it needs to direct the body. The Torah therefore tells us to surround ourselves with these symbolic *mitzvos* to serve as safeguards, reminding us of our spiritual mission.

Whether *tefillin* on his arm and head, *tzitzis* on his clothes, or the *mezuzah* that he encounters as he moves from place to place, a Jew is constantly encountering reminders of his spiritual mission. By creating an almost artificial spiritual environment, the Jew is helping to level the playing field, giving our souls a fighting chance in directing our bodies in the proper path. 



RABBI DOVID SPETNER

## THE RABBI WAS ASKED

ADAPTED BY RABBI DOVID TZVI MEISSNER  
FROM *ME'AH SHE'ARIM*  
BY RABBI YITZCHOK ZILBERSTEIN

A painful story transpired in a European *shul*. A group of rioters broke into the *shul*, removed the Torah scrolls from the Ark, threw them to the ground, and trampled on them.

The congregants entered the *shul* in the morning to pray, and they were shocked by the awful sight. They immediately called the police, who instructed them not to touch anything until the detectives would come and try to discover who the rioters were.


**Q** Are the congregants permitted to leave the Torah scrolls lying on the ground in disgrace in order to help catch the wrongdoers?

**A** In this situation, since the congregants are passive, not actively disgracing the holy scrolls (*shev vi'al ta'aseh*), it's permitted to leave them on the floor for two reasons: one, for the sake of revenge, and two, there is a concern that these rioters may seek to kill other Jews, which would qualify as a life-threatening situation (*pikuach nefesh*).

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## TIDBITS OF CINCINNATI JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

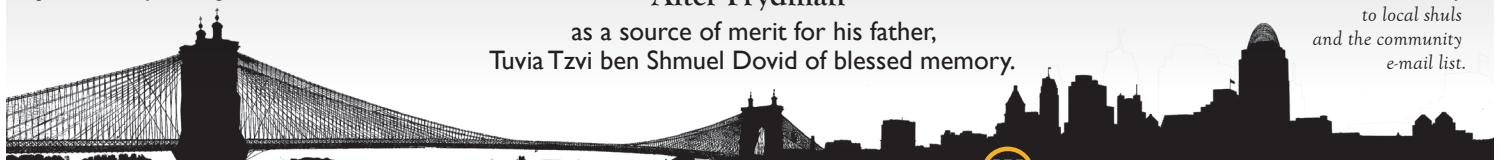
In the year 1947, Jewish Cincinnatians and brothers Philip and Albert Steiner created the Kenner Toy Company. The name Kenner came from the street name where their office was located. Their first toy was the Bubl-Matic Gun, which was the toy that spawned the idea of creating a toy company. The Kenner Toy company would go on to invent or manufacture many of our most-well-known toys, such as Play-Doh, Nerf products, Care Bears, and the Easy-Bake Oven. A Kenner invention introduced in 1963, the Easy-Bake Oven is now a member of the National Toy Hall of Fame and approximately 30 million have been sold to date. The Kenner Toy company was purchased by General Mills (yes, the cereal company) in 1967, and was eventually sold to Hasbro, Inc. in 1991. Kenner Toys and its operations in Cincinnati were closed by Hasbro, Inc. in 2000. 

SOURCE: "Kenner History." <http://www.kennercollector.com/kenner-history/> Accessed 24 Jul 2018.

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as a source of merit for his father,  
Tuvia Tzvi ben Shmuel Dovid of blessed memory.

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e-mail list.



# GREAT ACTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

RABBI EFRAIM SHAPIRO TELLS A STORY THAT TOOK place several years ago. A school was suffering terribly from lack of funds and was at risk of closing its doors. Out of desperation, the administrators sent home notes instructing parents who were behind on tuition payments to keep their children home until they paid their dues. Inadvertently, one of the children who was sent home was the son of a widow who was having difficulty making ends meet. The mother saw the note, gave her son a bag, and sent him back to school. The *rebbe* was at a loss when he saw the child enter the classroom. The principal had instructed that the boy shouldn't be admitted; on the other hand, he didn't want to ask the boy to leave. He walked over to speak to the boy, and while doing so, he accidentally knocked over the lunch bag on the boy's desk. Bending over to pick it up, he saw it wasn't just a lunch bag. There were several pieces of jewelry inside, including what looked to be a wedding band, along with a note: *More precious to me is the Torah of your mouth than thousands in gold and silver.* 🥂

**THIS SHABBOS**

**“Two” B’Av – Hashem Holding Our Hands “Two”gether -** KWL women’s class, with Rabbi Raphael Mendlowitz at the Heinemann residence.

**THE RABBI WAS ASKED**

CONTINUED

The Noda Biyehuda goes so far as to say that although we are very cautious with degrading a corpse, one may, however, amputate a corpse to help find the murderer. In our story, certainly being passive and not picking up the scrolls would be permitted.

However, everyone should sit on the floor like mourners, especially because the scrolls are lying on the floor with nobody picking them up. 🥂

**A PARASHA Q 4 U**

RABBI DOVID SPETNER

What *possuk* in this week’s *parasha* do we normally say four times a week?

Bring this question to the Shabbos table and see who knows the answer! 🥂

# At the Kollel

- DAILY
- WEEKLY
- MORE

## Twice a Week

👉 **Basar b’Chalav Chabura**  
 Rabbi Moshe Dovid Zeffren .....  
 Sunday and Monday, 8–9 PM

👉👉 **Sotah Daf-a-Week**  
 Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....  
 Sunday and Wednesday, 9–9:45 PM

## Plus...

👉👉 **Kollel Women’s Learning**  
 • Wednesday nights at the Kollel (alternating weeks, speakers vary)  
 • Shabbos afternoon classes (speakers and locations vary)

👉👉👉 **Yarchei Kallahs and Seasonal Y’mei Iyyun**  
 featuring guest speakers and our famous five-star brunch

👉👉👉 **Saturday Night Learning (SNL)**  
 and light *Melave Malka* ..... monthly in the winter (locations vary)

👉👉👉 **Sunday Brunch-n-Learn**  
 Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....  
 twice a month (locations vary)

👉 **Boys’ Learning Club**  
 Sundays, 9:45 AM or 8:15 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/](http://CINCYKOLLEL.ORG/MINYAN-SCHEDULE/)

