

“Rather you shall go to my land and to my birthplace, and you shall take a wife for my son, for Yitzchak.” (Parshas Chayei Sarah, Bereishis 24:4) The 24-year old boy studying in a yeshiva in Israel was anxious to get started on shidduchim since almost everyone of his peers was already married. His only obstacle was an older brother back in the States who was still unmarried. His high hopes for a breakthrough in the situation through a shidduch in which his brother was involved were dashed when a call came from home that once again nothing had come of this attempt to find a marriage partner. He then began to seriously consider passing up his brother despite the pain this might cause him. When he finally decided to do so he phoned his parents to inform them. His father’s reaction was to inquire whether he had asked a Rosh Yeshiva’s advice on the matter. Although he was absolutely confident that he would receive confirmation of his decision, he consented to immediately seek his advice. Since his own Rosh Yeshiva was officiating at a wedding out of town and he was anxious to fulfill his promise to his father, he decided to consult the head of a yeshiva not far away from his own. After hearing his situation the Rosh Yeshiva said it was permissible for him to pass up his brother but also asked him for some details about that brother’s personality and what type of girl he was looking for. Upon hearing his description the Rosh Yeshiva told him that he knew a family in the States whose daughter would be an ideal match and gave him their telephone number...The happy ending was that the older brother became engaged to that girl and our hero’s problem was solved by heeding his father’s advice to seek advice. [by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt”l. Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

Hints & Answers* **SHMIRAS SHABBOS:** The *Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* (29:31) writes, “It is prohibited to give a present on Shabbos and Yom Tov, unless this object is for a Shabbos/Yom Tov need, or if a person needs the object to fulfill a mitzva of the day...The prohibition of giving a gift on Shabbos and Yom Tov applies to the giver and to the recipient. Someone who wants to give a present on Shabbos or Yom Tov to a chasan who is making a drasha or to a bar mitzva boy should transfer the ownership to him through a 3rd party before Shabbos/Yom Tov. If the giver did not do that transfer of ownership, the recipient should have intention (before taking hold of the present) that he will be acquiring it after Shabbos/Yom Tov.” **RHYME:** “Regret”. **RIDDLE:** “ויהיו חיי שרה” - *Peirush Da’as Zekenim* points out that the *gematria* of the first word of the *parsha*—ויהיו—equals to 37, hinting that Sarah *Imeinu’s* life (חיי שרה) was only 37 years. Even though the verse says that she lived for 127 years, she began her true life at the age of 90, when she gave birth to Yitzchok Avinu. **SHMITTA:** 1: False, 2: True [source: “A Guide to the Halachos of Shmittah” by Rav A. Wiesenfeld] * *Menucha’s answer are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha, but rather as a springboard for discussions.*

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Menucha

בס"ד
A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family
לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

Volume 15, Issue 4

Chayei Sarah

5786

Shmiras Shabbos

A Birthday Present



In the middle of the Shabbos *seuda*, the Cohen family heard a knock on the door. Bracha opened the door and was greeted by their neighbor, Mrs. Silver. Strangely, she had one hand behind her back. “Gut Shabbos, everyone!” said Mrs. Silver, “Guess what? I found out that it’s Rafi’s 15th birthday today. And I have a present for him!”

Rafi was excited to find out what his present will be. “A sefer? ... A siddur? ... A cake?” he was asking himself in his mind. But when Mrs. Silver took her hand from behind her back, Rafi found out that non of his guesses were correct. Mrs. Silver was holding in her hand a magnifying glass!

“This will help you to read the small print in the Torah books that you will be learning,” explained Mrs. Silver.

Rafi smiled with gratitude and started to extend his hand to take the present, but then he thought for a moment, “Maybe, I am not allowed to take presents on Shabbos...”

Question: May Rafi take the magnifying glass from Mrs. Silver?

(The “Hints & Answers” section is on page 4)

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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THIS PUBLICATION REQUIRES GENIZA

We know that each one of the daily prayers (Shacharis, Mincha, Ma'ariv) has its unique strength.

Q. Which prayer has the power to be answered immediately?

A. Mincha. Chazal tell us that the prayer that Yitzchok Avinu went out to pray in the field (in this week's parsha), was tefillas Mincha. The *Kli Yakar* points out that from that episode in the parsha we see that Mincha is very a powerful prayer. He comments that in that tefilla, Yitzchok Avinu asked Hashem to help him find his *zivug*. Right afterwards, the Torah says "He (Yitzchok) lifted his eyes (after he completed his tefilla); and behold, camels were coming." Riding on one of those camels was Rivka – Yitzchok's *zivug*. We see from here that Hashem answered Yitzchok Avinu's Mincha prayer immediately! Since *ma'ase avos siman l'bonim*, this relates to us also: Mincha has the power to be answered immediately!

וַיִּקָּם אַבְרָהָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַעֲמָלֵי הָאָרֶץ לְבְנֵי חַתָּן...וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַבְרָהָם לְפָנָיו עִם הָאָרֶץ.

And Avraham got up and bowed to the people of the land, to the children of Ches...and Avraham bowed down in front of the people of the land. (Bereishis 23:7, 23:12)

Q. Why did Avraham bow down two times in his appreciation of the people of the land?! Also, why at first he bowed "to the people" and the second time he bowed down "in front of the people"?

A. Based on Midrash Rabba (58:6) the answer is as follows. The first bow was a sign of appreciation to the people of Ches. The second bow was actually to Hashem. That's why, by the second bow, the Torah says that he bowed *in front of the people of the land* - i.e., the Torah is telling us that Avraham bowed down to Hashem in front of bnei Ches.

The lesson that we can learn from here is that when we receive something good from another person, we should show our appreciation to that person, but also, show our gratitude to Hashem **in front of** that person. We will thus show that we have *emunah* that Hashem is the one who decreed that this goodness should be bestowed upon us.



Rhymes for Kids



Do I cherish every mitzva?
Oh yes, you bet!
And what if something faulty happens?!
Doing the mitzva I don't _____!

A Midrash to this week's parsha teaches [Bereishis Rabba 58:8] that an angel was trying to make Avraham Avinu regret the Akeida by showing to him that Sarah's *petirah* was a result of the Akeida. And Avraham overcame that challenge. Since we have the spiritual genes of our Avos, we can also overcome such challenges.



Parsha Riddle



Can you figure out how in the first 3 words of this week's parsha it is revealed that the number of years of Sarah Imeinu's life equals to the number of years that passed from Yitzchok's birth to the *Akeida*?



Shmittah Shaila



1. Food that has *kedushas shevi'is* may be given to a very small child, even though he will play with it and thereby waste it.

TRUE / FALSE

2. When a parent is giving to a child food that has *kedushas shevi'is*, care should be taken to give to the child only that which he will eat, not extra which is likely to be wasted.

TRUE / FALSE