Just a Story...

Lifesaving Stubborness

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l

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

"Shalom", said the excited voice on the telephone to the author of the Hebrew book "Tuvcha Yabiyu", "I'm the fellow you wrote a story about in your book".

This introduction triggered memories of a touching story about a yeshiva student scheduled for radiation treatment in an Israeli hospital. He was informed that he could only receive such treatment wearing sterilized hospital clothes. The hospital could not provide him with a sterilized four-cornered garment and tzitzit, so he had one of his own properly washed and sterilized in order to avoid being without this mitzvah while undergoing such serious treatment.

To his dismay the nurse in charge of the treatment refused to administer it unless he removed the tzitzit garment. He stubbornly refused to comply and sat for hours outside the radiation department hoping for some miracle. The miracle did come but not in the way he expected. One of the senior doctors of that department noticed him and asked what he was waiting for. Upon hearing his problem he entered the department office to speak to the nurse. When he returned to our hero, he was in shock.

"I took a look at the records of your case", he said, "and the treatment you were to receive. The nurse had accidentally mixed things up and the treatment she would have given you could have proved fatal!"

The boy whose life had been saved by his stubbornness for the mitzvah of tzitzit went on to tell the author that he had enjoyed a complete recovery a couple of years later and was now happily married.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** Electronic toys (e.g., cars, phones, dolls, robots) are in the category of *Kli Shemelachto L'isur* (i.e., a *muktza* category which refers to items that are generally used (during the week) to do *melacha* with them). Generally speaking (although some exceptions apply), a *muktza* item from this category can be moved in order to use it in a permissible way. As such, playing with an electronic toy in a permissible way (e.g., playing with a toy car without activating the electronic switches) is allowed. However, care should be taken to make sure that a child will not activate electronic switches. For example, a parent should remove the batteries from the toy before Shabbos. [See *Piskei Teshuvos* 308, note 330] **RHYMES:** "quick" **RIDDLE:** Avraham Avinu. He prayed for Avimelech's family members to be able to give birth. And after that prayer, Avraham was blessed first, namely, that Sarah gave birth to Yitzchok (See Rashi to 21:1) . | *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in *halacha*.

The Ness Center
Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Telehealth and Residential Services
318-616-0645

nerdio

HAN CAPITAL

Menucha - a project of Lev Le'Avot | Writer: R' Shlomo Epshteyn | No copyright restrictions | Walder Educational Pavilion clipart | Donations, which support all projects of Lev Le'Avot, can be made at **www.levleavot.org.** Contact info: info@levleavot.org

בס"ד

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן סלמון ז"ל

Menucha

The Shabbos table companion

Lev Le'Avot

5787, Volume 16, Issue 4 וירא

Halacha Challenge

Playing with a Battery-Operated Toy Phone on Shabbos

Four-year-old Miriam was so happy to receive a toy cell phone as a present for her birthday. Her birthday was on Sunday, and she played with the phone all week long. On erev Shabbos, her brother Avromy said to her: "I bet you'll miss your phone on Shabbos…" To which Miriam replied: "Why should I miss it?! I'll play with it on Shabbos!"

"You can't!" stated Avromy, "When you press buttons, it makes sounds."

"So I'll play with it without pressing the buttons!" said Miriam.

"I think even if you are not planning to press the buttons you still cannot play it on Shabbos, because it's a toy that's made to press on electronic buttons," said Avromy.

"And what if Abba will take out the batteries before Shabbos?" asked Miriam.

"Hmm...I am not sure," replied Avromy honestly.

Question: Can Miriam play with the toy phone on Shabbos, if the batteries will be removed from it before Shabbos?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

Special thanks to the kehilla of Heritage

Parsha Pearls

וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֶּנִי בְנִי

And Yitzchak spoke to Avraham his father, and he said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." (Bereishis 22:7)

Seforim tell us that when something appears in the Torah for the first time, it has great significance, because we learn its true meaning and definition. "Here I am, my son" are the first words recorded in the Torah where Avraham speaks to Yitzchak. In fact, these are the first words in the Torah where a Jewish father speaks to his son! Hence, these words carry a fundamental lesson in them - they teach a person how he should view his role as a father in relation to his child: It is a role of **הִנֶּנִי בְנִי** - "**Here I am, my son**" - "I am here for you, always. I am always ready and prepared to give to you what you need, because you are my precious, dear son."

Ask at Your Shabbos Table

In the beginning of the parsha, the Torah tells us that Avraham Avinu ran to greet his potential guests: וַיָּרָץ לִקְרָאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל (*and he saw and he ran toward them*).

Ask around your Shabbos table: What practical lesson can everyone —even those who cannot run—learn from this episode?

Menucha's Answer: Be exited when it comes to doing kindness to others.

Rhymes for Kids

Do you know who in our parsha did the mitzva of visiting the sick?
Hashem Himself came to Avraham's tent and helped him to recover quick!
Since Hashem demonstrated to us the performance of this great deed,
Then it's clear: to this mitzva He wants us to pay a really special heed.

"And Hashem appeared to him in the plains of Mamre..." *(parshas Vayeira, Bereishis 18:1)*

On this verse, Rashi writes: "*And Hashem appeared to him: to visit the sick. Said Rabbi Chama the son of Chanina: It was the third day from his bris mila, and the Holy One, blessed be He, came and inquired about his welfare.*"

Bikur Cholim means to visit the sick,

It helps the *cholim* to recover _____!

Riddle

In this parsha, he prayed for someone, and he was blessed first. Who is he and whom did he pray for?

[Hint: Rashi tells us that from that episode we learn the following important lesson: "Whoever begs for mercy for his friend, when he needs the same thing, he is answered first."]