Just a Story...

Rav Trop and a Thief

A wandering Jew had acquired a reputation as a thief, and was ostracized by society. When he came to Radin, he encountered Rav Naftali Tzvi Trop, the famed Rosh Yeshiva of the Chofetz Chaim's Yeshiva. Although Rav Trop knew about this Jew's past, he greeted him warmly, invited him to eat by his table, and even offered him a bed to sleep for the night in his home. That evening, the Jews of Radin began murmuring with each other, wondering why Rav Trop was exerting himself for this unsavory character. And that same evening, someone worked up the courage to ask Rav Trop directly why he was treating this thief with such warmth.

Rav Trop answered simply: "It does say in the Torah that a thief pays back double the value of what he stole, and if he cannot pay it back, he is sold as a slave. But where is it written that I am exempt from fulfilling the mitzvah of hachnasas orchim? Isn't he a Jew? Didn't Avraham Avinu fulfill the mitzvah of hachnasas orchim even with Arabs who worshipped the dust of their feet? Now, it's true that it's risky to bring a suspected thief into my house, but I can watch over him carefully the whole time he is in my home. However, I have no excuse to exempt myself from the mitzvah." The next day, the people in Radin heard that Rav Trop had done exactly what he had said. He had stayed awake the entire night to guard the thief while he slept in his home.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** The Mishna Berura (315:5) writes: "Therefore, an untamed bird that entered a house through an entrance or a window, even though, it is not trapped there, nevertheless it is prohibited to close the entrance and the window. But when there is cold weather and there is suffering [due to the cold air entering the house through that entrance or window] or when there is any other suffering [because of that opened door/window], the Chayei Adam writes that it is permitted to close [the window/door] if the person's intention is only to be saved from the cold air and he is not interested at all in trapping the bird…" **RHYMES:** "eye" **RIDDLE:** There should be a minimum of seven *Kaddishim* every day, corresponding to what is written in Tehillim (119:164), *Sheva bayom hillalticha - I praise You seven times daily* [*Mishnah Berurah* 55:5] Try this good idea: as you answer a kaddish with *kavana*, add 1 to your count. Once you reach 7 on that day, you've emulated David HaMelech - you've praised Hashem in a complete way. | *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in *halacha*.

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בס"ד

Menucha

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן סלמון ז"ל

The Shabbos table companion

Lev Le'Avot

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וישלח

Halacha Challenge

Trapping a Bird



On a Shabbos morning, Binyamin was the first one to come to shul. He thought he would enter the shul, sit down and learn some mishnayos before tefilla. But a surprise was waiting for him inside…

When he opened the door, he saw a pigeon flying around under the ceiling of the shul. The shul was small and the bird was continually flying from one wall to the other. Binyamin froze, observing the bird. The cold wind rushed through the shul's entrance.

As Binyamin was about to close the door, he paused and thought to himself, "Right now, the bird is not trapped because it can fly out from this entrance. But if I close it, it will be trapped in the shul. And trapping an animal on Shabbos is the *melacha* of *tzod*!"

Question: May Binyamin close the shul's door?

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

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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Tehillim Treasures

אַמָרַי הַאֲזִינָה ה' בִּינָה הֲגִיגִי.

Hear my utterances, Hashem. Understand my thoughts. [Tehillim 5:2].

Rashi explains this verse in the following way:

אמרי האזינה ה' כשיש בי כח לשאול צרכי לפניך. וכשאין בי כח להתפלל לפניך והדאגה עצורה בלבי בינה הגיגי הבן הגיון לבי.

"Listen to my utterances, Hashem, when I have the strength to ask for my needs in front of You. But when I don't have the strength to pray in front of you, and worry is seated in my heart, understand the thoughts of my heart."

Hence, with this verse, Dovid HaMelech reveals to us that a prayer which is said in one's heart without uttering the words is also a prayer that Hashem responds to.*

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*Although this would not apply to the *Shemoneh Esrei* [see *Shulchan Aruch* 101:2], this can be applicable frequently throughout the day. For example, when a person wakes up in the morning and he does not have the strength to properly talk yet due to his drowsiness, he can pray in his heart that Hashem should help him to get up. And when he retires at night, he can pray in his heart as he is laying in bed that Hashem should help him fall asleep. And in general, throughout the day a person can direct his heart to Hashem and ask Him for assistance in whatever he needs.



Rhymes for Kids



קָטֹנְתִּי מִכֹּל הַחֲסָדִים - I have become humbled from all the kindnesses... [that You, Hashem have bestowed upon me]" *(parshas Vayishlach, Bereishis 32:11)* By the fact that Yaakov Avinu said "I have become humbled from <u>all</u> the kindnesses" we see that his *midda* was to notice every kindness that he received from Hashem - no matter how BIG or SMALL it was. Let's learn from Yaakov Avinu to notice BIG and SMALL acts of kindness that Hashem does for us.

A tiny drop of water came down from the sky
Hashem's act of *chessed* I noticed with my ___!



Riddle



Intro to the riddle: In the beginning of this week's parsha, when Yaakov Avinu was already in Eisav's eye view, the Torah says: "*and he [Yaakov] prostrated himself to the ground seven times*." Why specifically **seven** times, and why does the Torah need to inform us of the specific number of bows that Yaakov Avinu did? Perhaps, the Torah is letting us know that by bowing seven times, Yaakov showed to Eisav that he is *completely* humbled in front of him, because number "7" signifies a complete unit—for example: 7 days of the week, 7 years in the Shmittah cycle, etc.

Riddle: There are many things that we do for Hashem in tefilla once each day (e.g., *Pesukei Dezimra*). There are also some things that we do for Hashem in tefilla twice each day (e.g., *Krias Sh'ma*). But what is something that we need to do for Hashem in tefilla at least **seven** times each day?!