

Week of 3 Tevet, 5777 - January 01, 2017

Ohel Sara Newsletter **PARSHAT VAYIGASH**

By: Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen

PARSHAT VAYIGASH

The plot thickens. At the end of last week's parshah, Yosef Ha'tzadik (a"h) accused the brothers of stealing his magic goblet.

Yehudah (a"h), in charge of the shevatim, denies even the remotest possibility that any one of the brothers could be a thief. He was so confident that he pre-ordained the would-be thief to a death penalty and offered the remaining group of nine brothers as slaves if the accusations proved correct.

Unfortunately, Yehudah was unaware of Yosef's precontrived ruse of planting the goblet in Benjamin's sack.

This week's parshah begins as Yosef wishes to keep only Benjamin, as a slave, something that Yehudah will battle to the very end to prevent.

At this point, Yosef and his brothers confront each other. In a mixed array of rage, fury, and emotional pleas, Yehudah bargains with Yosef. Almost threatening war over the matter, he explains that "Benjamin cannot be taken as a slave as he has left an old father who awaits his return. If he will not return to his father, the old man will die of grief and aggravation. After all, he already lost one son to a terrible accident."

After seeing the concern that Yehudah has for his younger brother, Yosef makes the startling revelation. "I am Yosef. Is my father still alive?" (Breishit 45:3)

Yosef then forgives the brothers and tells them that his episode was divinely preordained. It set the path as a lifeline from.

the ensuing famine.

He then sends his brothers back to Canaan to bring his father, but before doing so he presents each of them with a set of clothes. However, Yosef gives his youngest brother Benjamin five sets of clothing and three hundred pieces of silver.

The Gemara of Megilah asks a very poignant question. How is it that Yosef, a victim of jealousy, provoked his brothers by favoring Benjamin? Did not jealousy spur the hatred that led to the original calamity? Why did he not learn from past experience, not to show favoritism?

The Gemara explains that Yosef was very calculated in his actions. He was alluding to a similar event that would occur in the future. After being saved from the gallows, Mordechai Ha'Yehudi (a"h), a descendent of Benjamin, miraculously rose to power and prestige.

He was gifted with five changes of clothing as he left the palace of Achashverosh. Benjamin's five changes of clothing were symbolic of a future gift that Benjamin's descendent would one day receive. Some mefarshim ask a powerful question. Obviously, Yosef did not explain the deep meaning of his actions to his brothers.

What then was gained by favoring Benjamin in front of them? Would the symbolic reference negate any ill feeling? Would some mysterious token resolve a problem that may have been simmering? Why does Yosef, in the midst of the turmoil of his startling revelation, decide to make a ceremonial gift that favors one brother

PARSHAT VAYIGASH

Continued

over the rest, in order to foreshadow an event destined to occur in more than 1,000 years in the future? Could he have not saved symbolism for a more complacent setting? The answer can be explained with a story.

In 1939, the Nazi Gestapo shut down Rabbi Moshe Schneider's (a"h) yeshiva in Frankfurt, Germany. With tremendous effort and support from the English community, he was able to relocate to England.

Survival during that horrific period was both a tremendous spiritual and physical challenge but two boys in the Yeshivah helped meet that challenge. They both were named Moshe.

One Moshe would rise in the early hours of the morning and pick up leftover bread from a generous bakery. Carrying the bags of bread and leftover rolls while walking through the bitter cold was not easy, but Moshe never missed his duties. In fact, he often took the place of other boys who were supposed to do the chore.

The other Moshe also woke up early. He led a special learning session before dawn. He encouraged his friends to make the extra effort - which they religiously did. After years of uninterrupted efforts, one day the boys got public recognition. Rabbi Schneider blessed them in front of the entire school. "Moshe who shleps the bread is not only schlepping today's bread. One day, he will help distribute bread for thousands of people. And the Moshe who is concerned with spirituality of others will continue to do so in years to come," announced the Rosh Yeshiva. "Their actions today are only seeds of the future."

His words proven to be true. Moshe, the bread-shlepper, became Moshe (Paul) Reichman, one

of our generation's most benevolent philanthropists. Moshe, the young teacher, became Rabbi Moshe Shternbuch, Rav in Johannesburg, South Africa and Har Nof, Israel, an author of prestigious books on halachah and a teacher of thousands.

Perhaps Yosef is telling us the secret of our people. Moments earlier Benjamin stood in shackles. He was accused of stealing a magic goblet and was humiliatingly sentenced with life-long enslavement to Paroh. Moments later he was not only liberated, but identified with honor and integrity as the blood brother, from both mother and father, of the most powerful man in the world. Yosef gives the former slave-to-be a special, five-fold gift as an announcement to the world. With Benjamin, he declares the destiny of his people. Yosef declares through Benjamin that today's events are our manifest destiny.

Due to the courageous actions of Yehudah, Benjamin, the slave-to-be, walked away triumphantly, not with one change of clothing but with five. This was not a symbolism for thousands of years to come, but rather a symbolism of the ever-present character of the Jewish people.

The events of Benjamin in Mitzrayim manifested themselves in almost direct comparison and beautiful symmetry with events that occurred centuries later in Persia. Mordechai Ha'Yehudi, a descendant of Benjamin and by many accounts Yehudah, stood his ground under the greatest threats of death and humiliation. He defied the neviim of doom and walked away with glory and splendor.

Yosef's message was no riddle, it was no illusion, and it was no mystical prophecy. It was our destiny. Courage in trying times yields greatness. It was not a message only for the future. It was a message of the future - for today. That was a message all the brothers could appreciate -- at that moment. It is a message we too, can appreciate right now.

HALACHAH CORNER

QUESTION: Can a woman daven Minchah after she already lit the Shabat candles?

ANSWER: Ideally, a woman who usually davens Minchah every day should recite Minchah on Friday afternoon before she lights the Shabat candles. Lighting the Shabat candles constitutes the formal acceptance of Shabat, and so Minchah, which is a weekday tefilah, should be recited prior to candle lighting. The case under discussion is when a woman who normally davens Minchah every day forgot to recite the tefilah prior to lighting the Shabat candles. Assuming the sun has not set and the time for Minchah has not passed, may she still recite Minchah or is it too late for her to daven, since she already accepted the onset of Shabat?

The Ben Ish Chai (a"h) states that a woman may not daven Minchah once she lit the Shabat candles and accepted Shabat. This is also the opinion of the Mishnah Berurah. Rav Ovadyah Yosef (a"h), however, disagrees, and allows a woman to recite Minchah in this case. His primary argument relates to a distinction between an individual's formal acceptance of Shabat, and that of a congregation.

When a congregation accepts Shabat in shul, such as by declaring "Bo'ee Kalah" in the Kabbalat Shabat service, this constitutes a definitive acceptance with respect to all halachot. An **individual's** acceptance of Shabat, however, as in the case of a woman lighting the Shabat candles, is not absolute. Under certain circumstances, such as when a woman forgot to recite Minchah before candle lighting, she may consider Shabat as having not yet begun, and may daven Minchah.

Additionally, Rav Ovadyah notes, the weekday Amidah recited at Minchah on Friday afternoon is not necessarily at odds with the observance of Shabat. Fundamentally, the weekday Amidah may be recited even on Shabat. Chachamim formulated a different, briefer Amidah prayer for Shabat in order not to overburden us with a lengthy tefilah on Shabat, but essentially, the weekday Amidah is appropriate for Shabat, also. Therefore, in the case of a woman who forgot to recite Minchah before candle lighting, she still has the opportunity to recite it after she lit, even though she has already accepted Shabat.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

** "Some people talk to you in their free time. And others free their time just to be able to talk to you." **

** "Stop feeling sorry for yourself and you will be happy." **

RIDDLE?



I am deaf, dumb and blind and always tell the truth?

What Am I?

(Answer on Page 8)

WEEKLY QUESTION

Dear Rebetzin Cohen,
I always listen to your lectures on Torah Anytime and really enjoy them. Recently, a non-observant relative who came to visit from Israel bought me a necklace that is a mezuzah pendant. I know mezuzot are meant for doorways, but are there any issues with wearing one around my neck?

Response on page 11

TO SAVE A LIFE

The mall was over-crowded, shoppers
rushed from store to store
Nobody paid attention as she
crouched there on the floor.
She didn't seem to be in trouble
nor did she appear afraid
Apparently she stopped to rest,
she did not need my aid.

A little girl of 8 or 9 and cute as she could be
I wondered, "Should I stop and ask if
she needs help from me?"

I wondered if her mother had just
left her there alone
I thought, as I walked by her,
in my haste to get back home.

As I left the mall I could not get her off my mind
Did that little girl need help?
Was I just acting blind?
It bothered me so much,
so I went back to the mall
I had to get this settled in my mind
once and for all.

The mall began to close - I heard the chain
doors coming down
But as I looked, the girl was no
where to be found.
Is it my imagination that again is running wild
Thinking I had lost my chance to
help this poor lost child.

I guess she must be fine or she would
still be sitting here
I always get emotional around
Chanukah time each year.
I had to leave and get back home
where it was safe and warm
The weather forecast for that night -
"A chilling winter storm."

Late that night it happened as
the weather station said
It was frigid cold with heavy snow
while I was snug in bed.

Continued on page 11

A CUTE STORY

An elderly couple was celebrating their
sixtieth anniversary. The couple had
married as childhood sweethearts and
decided to walk back to their old school. It
was not locked, so they entered, and
found the old desk they shared, where
Jerry had carved the words, "I love you,
Sally."

On their way back home, a bag of money
fell out of an armored car, landing at their
feet. Sally picked it up and sure enough,
there was fifty thousand dollars in the
bag!

"We've got to give it back!" Jerry said.
Sally nodded and said, "Finders keepers."

She put the money back in her purse,
went home and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two police officers were
canvassing the neighborhood looking for
the money and knocked on their door.

"Pardon me, but did either of you find a
bag that fell out of an armored car
yesterday?"

Sally smiled and said, "No."

Jerry nervously replied, "She's lying. She
hid it up in the attic."

Sally calmly retorted, "Don't believe him,
he's getting senile."

The officers turned to Jerry and began to
question him. "Tell us the story from the
beginning."

Jerry took a deep breath and said, "Well,
when Sally and I were walking home from
school yesterday..."

The officers turned to each other and
said, "We're outta here!"

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Everything that we still see as beautiful in this world is the real proof of a miracle."

(Anonymous)

THE FOLDED NAPKIN

Tom tried not to be biased, but he had his doubts about hiring Stevie. His placement counselor assured him however, that he would be a good, reliable busboy. But Tom had never hired a mentally handicapped employee and was not certain he wanted one. He was not sure how his customers would react to Stevie.

Stevie was short, a little dumpy with the smooth facial features and thick-tongued speech of a Downs Syndrome child. Tom was not worried about most of his trucker customers because truckers do not generally care who buses tables as long as the meatloaf platter is good and the pies are homemade.

The four-wheeler drivers were the ones who concerned him as well as the mouthy college kids traveling to school and the yuppie snobs who secretly polish their silverware with their napkins for fear of catching some dreaded "truck stop germ." He knew these people may be uncomfortable around Stevie so he closely watched him for the first few weeks. He realized that there was no need for concern. After the first week, Stevie had Tom's staff wrapped around his stubby little finger and within a month his truck regulars had adopted him as their official truck stop mascot.

After that, Tom no longer cared what the rest of the customers thought of Stevie. He was like a 21-year-old kid in blue jeans and Nikes, eager to laugh and eager to please, but fierce in his attention to his duties. Every salt and pepper shaker was exactly in its place, not a bread crumb or coffee spill was visible when Stevie got done with the table.

The only problem was persuading him to wait to clean a table until after the customers were finished. He would hover in the background, shifting his weight from one foot to the other, scanning the dining room until a table was empty. Then he would scurry to the empty table and carefully bus dishes and glasses onto his cart and meticulously wipe the table up with a practiced flourish of his rag.

If he thought a customer was watching, his brow would pucker with added concentration. He took pride in doing his job exactly right and everyone loved how hard he tried to please each and every person he met. Over time, they learned that he lived with his mother, a widow who was disabled after repeated surgeries for cancer. They lived on their Social Security benefits in public housing two miles from the truck stop. Their social worker, who stopped to check on him every so often, admitted they had fallen between the cracks.

Money was tight and what Tom paid him was probably the difference between them being able to live together and Stevie being sent to a group home. That is why the restaurant was a gloomy place that Monday morning in mid August. It was the first morning in three years that Stevie missed work.

He was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester getting a new valve placed in his heart. His social worker explained that people with Downs Syndrome often have heart problems at an early age and that his situation was not unexpected. But there was a good chance he

Continued on page 9

ANNOUNCEMENT

Audio-visual shiurim of

Rabanit *Kineret Sarah Cohen*

Are Now Available For Viewing At

www.torahanytime.com



Instructions: Register for free and click on the "Ladies" tab at the top of the Home Page. Scroll down and look for Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen. Underneath the image for the Rabanit, click on the **"follow"** tab if you want to be notified via email or text about a shiur that has become available for viewing.

Shiur Already Posted

Parshat Vayigash
Is My Father Still Alive?

Log on and enjoy the live
lectures and be inspired.

Annual Newsletter Drive

**Every Week You Receive Our
Inspirational And Informative
Newsletters**

We are asking that you kindly send us a small token of your appreciation for the newsletters which enhance your week. Please help us continue spreading Torah to more Jewish women around the world.

Please reach out to us with your support.

Mail In Your Tax Deductible Donation To:

Ohel Sara Cong.

C/O R. Davis

1402 Ave N

Brooklyn, NY 11230

Include your email address in the "memo" section of your check. A Receipt of Your Donation Will Be Emailed To You Upon Receipt of Your Donation.

OR

Donate through PAYPAL.

Simply send your donation to the following email account: yourtrustedcoach@gmail.com
Paypal will forward your donation within 3 days

Tizku L'Mitzvot!!!

If you have a question, email us and we will
B'ezrat Hashem publish it.
Send your question to:
ohelsara26@gmail.com

**JOIN OUR AMAZON
SHOPPING INCENTIVE
&
HELP OHEL SARA
CONTINUE TO DO ITS
GOOD WORK**

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Ohel Sara Congregation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at
smile.amazon.com.

Just click on the link below to start your shopping on Amazon so that you can help Ohel Sara continue its good work.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0152784>

**THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY
5 TEVET**

**TORAH TRANSLATED INTO GREEK
(246 BCE)**

In a second attempt to translate the Torah into Greek (after an unsuccessful attempt 61 years earlier), the ruling Greek-Egyptian emperor Ptolemy gathered 72 Torah scholars, had them sequestered in 72 separate rooms, and ordered them to each produce a translation.

On the 8th of Tevet of the year 3515 from creation (246 BCE) they produced 72 corresponding translations, including identical changes in 13 places (where they each felt that a literal translation would constitute a corruption of the Torah's true meaning).

This Greek rendition became known as the Septuagint, "of the seventy" (though later versions that carry this name are not believed to be true to the originals).

Greek became a significant second language among Jews as a result of this translation. During Talmudic times, Tevet 8 was observed by some as a fast day, expressing the fear of the detrimental effect of the translation.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH – SHIDUCHIM – CHAZARAH BE'TESHUVAH – HATZLACHAH

PLEASE DAVEN FOR

YESHAYA DOV YEHUDA BEN SHOSHANA – ALEXANDER ZISHE BEN ALIZA – TZIVIYA BAT RACHEL – CHAIM YEHUDAH BEN AIDEL –
AVNER BEN MIRIAM – MOSHE BEN CHANAH – CHANA NESSYA BAT MIRIAM – AVNER CHAIM BEN DEVORA – YISROEL YOSEF BEN LEAH –
ILANA BAT LORA LARISA – DEVORAH BAT – ESTER BAT HAMRO – YAFFA BAT RIVKA – BARUCH CHAI BEN ZOYA –
BAILA CHAVA BAT SORKA – NISSAN BEN LIZA – GAVRIEL BEN TOVIYO DAVID BEN LIZA – FREIDA LEAH BAT PESHA RACHEL –
RIVKAH BAT MALKAH – YEHOSHUAH MORDECHAI BEN LEAH GITA

SHABBAT SECRETS
A Series On Shabat & It's Holiness
The Blessing Of Creation

On the fifth day of creation, Hashem blessed the fish. On the sixth day He blessed man. And on the seventh day He blessed the Shabat. On Shabat, man eats fish. We fuse the blessings of man, fish and Shabat into a lasting bond just as it states in Megilat Kohelet (4:12): "A three ply cord is not easily broken."

We find an interesting allusion to this in the pasuk in Sefer Tehlim which states (23:2): "He makes me lie down in green pastures."

Hashem is described as a shepherd Who cares for His people and attends to their needs.

The Hebrew word for "green pastures," is, "deshe," written with the letter, "Dalet, Shin and Alef," (דשד).

The word deshe is rashei tevat for the words, "Dagim, Shabat and Adam."

The Holy Bnei Yisaschar (a"h) teaches us that this means that with the simple act of eating fish on Shabat, Hashem's constant care showers upon us in this world by unifying all three things that were blessed at Creation.

Next week we will learn why
we eat fish on Shabat.

INTRODUCING...

A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR LADIES

The Rabanit will now be offering INDIVIDUAL, one-on-one classes on the phone for women who wish like to learn ONE topic in depth.



The advantage of the private classes is the ability to learn the subject of your choice in a deep and detailed manner - and the opportunity to ask questions and receive undivided attention.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

1. Choose a topic from the list below
2. Call our office and schedule your appointment for the time and day that best suits you
3. Depending on the topic you choose, an email with any materials you require for the lectures will be sent to you so you can follow along as you learn together with the Rabanit.
4. Payment for the series is made at the commencement of your classes.
5. You are now ready to begin your enlightening journey!!

Below is the list of topics:

SHABAT
EMUNAH & BITACHON
THE SECRET OF THE MIKVEH
SHALOM BAYIT
TEFILAH
WOMEN IN JEWISH HISTORY
THE PARSHAH IN DEPTH
FREE WILL

Call To Begin Your Journey
(347) 430-5700

**Room For 7 More Women
To Join!**

We're beginning our second cycle

ANSWER TO RIDDLE

A mirror

THE FOLDED NAPKIN

Continued

would come through the surgery in good shape and be back at work in a few months.

A ripple of excitement ran through the staff later that morning when word came that he was out of surgery, in recovery, and doing fine. Frannie, the head waitress, let out a war hoop and did a little dance in the aisle when she heard the good news. Marvin Ringers, one of the regular trucker customers, stared at the sight of this 50-year-old grandmother of four doing a victory dance beside his table.

"OK, Frannie, what was that dance all about?" he asked.

"We just got word that Stevie is out of surgery and going to be okay."

"I was wondering where he was. I had a new joke to tell him. What was the surgery about?" he continued to inquire.

Frannie quickly told Marvin and the other two drivers sitting at his booth about Stevie's surgery, then sighed, "Yeah, I'm glad he is going to be okay. But I don't know how he and his Mom are going to handle all the bills. From what I hear, they're barely getting by as it is."

Marvin nodded thoughtfully and Frannie hurried off to wait on the rest of her tables. Since Tom did not have time to round up a busboy to replace Stevie and really did not want to replace him, the waitresses were bussing their own tables that day until Tom decided what to do.

After the morning rush, Frannie walked into Tom's office. She had a couple of paper napkins in her hand and a funny look on her face. "What's up?" Tom asked.

"I didn't get that table where Marvin and his friends were sitting cleared off after they left and Pete and Tony were sitting there when I got back to clean it off," she said.

Continued on page 10

ATTENTION LADIES

You can now host a learning group in your community given by Rabanit Kineret Sarah Cohen. Call now for more informations.

(347) 430-5700

Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen will be speaking on the following dates:

Date: January 11, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Parkway, #6D - Brooklyn, NY

Date: January 15, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 1288 West Laurelton Parkway
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Date: January 25, 2017

Time: 2:30pm

Place: Raleigh Hotel
680 Hyden Rd, South Fallsburg NY

Date: January 25, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Prkwy - #6D, Brklyn, NY

Date: February 08, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Prkwy - #6D, Brklyn, NY

Date: February 12, 2017

Time: 8:00pm

Place: 1175 East Laurelton Parkway
Teaneck, NJ
Special Tu Be'Shevat Program

Date: February 22, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Prkwy - #6D, Brklyn, NY

Date: February 26, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 275 Taft Court - Paramus, NJ

THE FOLDED NAPKIN

Continued

"This was folded and tucked under a coffee cup."

She handed the napkin to Tom and three \$20.00 bills fell onto his desk when he opened it. On the outside, in big, bold letters, was printed "Something For Stevie."

"Pete asked me what that was all about, so I told him about Stevie and his Mom and everything and Pete looked at Tony and Tony looked at Pete, and they ended up giving me this."

She handed me another paper napkin that had "Something For Stevie" scrawled on the outside. Two \$50.00 bills were tucked within its folds. Frannie looked at Tom with wet, shiny eyes, shook her head and said, "truckers."

Stevie's placement worker said he'd been counting the days until the doctor said he could work. He called 10 times that week just to make sure Tom knew he was coming, fearful that they all had forgotten him or that his job was in jeopardy. Tom arranged for his mother bring him to work and met them in the parking lot, inviting them both to celebrate his first day back.

Stevie was thinner and paler, but could not stop grinning as he pushed through the doors and headed for the back room where his apron and bussing cart were waiting.

"Hold up there, Stevie, not so fast. Work can wait for a minute. To celebrate your coming back, breakfast for you and your mother is on me!" said Tom. He led them toward a large corner booth at the rear of the room.

Tom could feel and hear the rest of the staff following behind as they all marched through the dining room.

Glancing over his shoulder, he saw booth after booth of grinning truckers empty and join the procession. They stopped in front of the big table. Its surface was covered with coffee cups, saucers and dinner plates, all sitting slightly crooked on dozens of folded paper napkins.

"First thing you have to do Stevie, is clean up this mess," Tom said, trying to sound stern.

Stevie looked at Tom and then at his mother, then pulled out one of the napkins. It had "Something for Stevie" printed on the outside.

As he picked it up, two \$10.00 bills fell onto the table. Stevie stared at the money, then at all the napkins peeking from beneath the tableware, each with his name printed or scrawled on it. Tom turned to his mother and said, "There's more than \$10,000 in cash and checks on that table, all from truckers and trucking companies that heard about your problems. Happy Thanksgiving."

Well, it got real noisy about that time, with everybody hollering and shouting, and there were a few tears shed as well. But what was most humorous was that while everyone else was busy shaking hands and hugging each other, Stevie, with a big smile on his face, was busy clearing all the cups and dishes from the table. He was the best worker Tom ever had. And he felt as though he had planted a seed and watched it grow.

RESPONSE

Continued

Thank you for writing in with such an interesting question. I will do my best with Hashem's help to answer.

The Gemara of Avodah Zara explains in a number of places that a mezuzah affords protection. However, as you mention, the mitzvah of mezuzah is indeed to affix it to your doorway. Using it for any other purpose is in no way the fulfillment of the mitzvah. That being said, there are records of people using mezuzot as amulets since ancient times. In fact, the Mishnah mentions that some people had the custom to carry a hollowed-out staff containing a mezuzah for protection.

Let's explore the protective powers of the mezuzah. On the outside of the mezuzah scroll, Hashem's name Shakai (ש-כ-י) is written. The Mekubalim explain that in addition to this being one of Hashem's names, it is also the rashei teivot of the words: "Shomer Daltot Yisrael - Guardian of the doors of Israel." This alludes to the protection that the mezuzah affords. In light of this, there is a debate among chachamim post Talmudic times whether protection can be obtained only through a properly placed mezuzah in fulfillment of the mitzvah, or whether it can come from any mezuzah.



In a sefer titled, *Igrot Moshe* and in Rav Ovadyah Yosef's sefer titled, *Halichot Olam* - the Rabanim are of the opinion that there is indeed some measure of protection from the mezuzah itself, even when not affixed to a doorway. The Lubavitcher Rebbe (a"h) advised certain individuals who were dealing with health issues to carry a mezuzah with them (in **addition** to having kosher mezuzot properly affixed to all the doorways of the house).

Continued on page 12

TO SAVE A LIFE

Continued

In the morning I awoke to winter's nasty caper
The only place I'd go that day was
out to get the paper.



Cozy in my kitchen with my news
and cup of tea
But as I saw the front page,
it just devastated me.
On the front page down below,
a little headline read
"At the local shopping mall
a little girl found dead."

It was 4 A.M. this morning when
police received the call
The caller said, "A little girl was
dead behind the mall".
It was the chilling elements that
brought her close to death
As she lay down she fell asleep
and breathed her final breath.

I could not read the rest of it as
I began to weep
While I slept safe a little girl
had frozen in her sleep.
Many years have passed me now,
but it still haunts my dreams
Was the little girl they found the
same one I had seen?

I can't forget that little girl no matter how I try
But now when someone seems in
need I never pass them by.
The lesson I have learned from
this was difficult but true.
The last chance that someone may
have could very well be you.

RESPONSE

Continued

So yes, people have been known to carry mezuzot with them. But is it proper to have the mezuzah hanging around your neck?

There is a pasuk in Sefer Devarim (28:66) that states the following: "Ve'hayu chayecha teluyim lecha mi'neged... - and your life will hang in suspense before you..." The Gemara of Berachot explains that this refers to one who hangs up his tefillin on a peg, which is seen as disrespectful. Would hanging a mezuzah around your neck be equally disrespectful?

Two distinguished halachic poskim of the last century, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (a"h) and Rav Ovadyah Yosef (a"h), both explain that the Gemara's warning against hanging sacred items does not apply to hanging them from one's body. Indeed, in ancient times, the Jewish kings were commanded to constantly have a Torah scroll with them, so they would hang the scrolls from their arms.

However, wearing a mezuzah as a necklace presents some challenges. Unless it is covered by two opaque layers, a mezuzah (or any other sacred writing, for that matter) may not be brought into a bathroom or any unclean place, or be present in a room during intimate relations.



Practically, this means that if you were to wear a mezuzah necklace, you would need to make sure to take it off anytime you walked into the bathroom or even just walked through an unclean place.

Though wearing a mezuzah necklace may be permissible and may afford some protection, it is important not to lose sight of the mitzvah itself. Kosher mezuzot affixed properly throughout your home are much more potent than any necklace. It is my suggestion that you not wear the mezuzah as a necklace.

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION

SARA BAT MIMON HA'KOHEN (A"H)

Ohel Sara is named after my special and righteous grandmother. May the inspiration that women draw from this weekly newsletter benefit her neshamah in Gan Eden and may we all be redeemed as a result.

Ohel Sara wishes all its readers a Shabat

Shalom u'mevorach!

CANDLE LIGHTING TIME FOR SHABAT

4:26pm – NY TIME

Ohel Sara Congregation
c/o Cohen
902 Ocean Parkway #6D
Brooklyn, NY 11230
Website: www.ohelsara.com
Email: ohelsara26@gmail.com