

חיי שרה / Chayei Sarah

Volunteering For Chessed

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Toras Avigdor

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

Junior

"Magdalena," Mrs. Holtzbacher said to her housekeeper, who was busy sweeping the floor of their massive kitchen. "You can clean later, but right now I need you to please go to the bakery and pick up several loaves of bread for supper tonight."

"Wait, Mommy!" said Ari, who had just walked into the kitchen with his sister. "Malky and I will go for you."

"Yeah," Malky added with a smile. "This way you can have a clean kitchen and fresh bread for supper!"

"Wow!" Mommy exclaimed. "Thank you! How lucky I am to have children who are such baalei chessed! Magdalena, you can continue sweeping the kitchen - and I'll get a couple of our house robots to help you." Mommy clapped her hands, and instantly two house robots entered the kitchen, buzzing and whirring, and started helping the housekeeper sweep and mop the floor. Ari and Malky quickly got out of the robots' way and headed out to the bakery.

A little while later, the two Holtzbacher children returned to their mansion carrying bags filled with all types of delicious-looking bread.

"Thank you so much for going out to buy the bread - it smells delicious," Mommy said, taking the bags from the kids and peering inside. "But wait, why is there a ton of candy and snacks in the bags as well?"



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“Oh,” said Malky. “On the way home we passed a *Hachnosas Sefer Torah* - the Russian shul on Ornella Avenue is moving into their new building - and the Horki Rebbe was carrying the Torah under the *chuppah*! Hundreds of Horki Chassidim were dancing, there was a live band on a truck, Avraham Ben David was singing - it was amazing!”

“Not only that!” Ari interjected. “They had jugglers and fire-eaters, and the members of the Shul there were all doing these amazing Russian dances - it was such a beautiful *Kavod HaTorah*!”

“And then all of a sudden people started throwing candies and other treats for the *kinderlach* - of course we didn’t stop because we knew you were waiting for the bread, but there was so much candy being thrown - it was flying everywhere, hitting us in the head, and even landing in the bags as we walked!”

“*Kinderlach*, you know this reminds me of the story in this week’s *Parsha* of Rivkah *Imeinu* by the well.”

“Why?” asked Ari. “Well actually, there were live camels at the *Hachnosas Sefer Torah*. And there were also people giving out drinks to anyone who was thirsty, if that’s what you mean.”

“No, I mean that you *kinderlach* remind me of Rivkah *Imeinu* in that story,” Mommy said.

“I don’t understand,” both Ari and Malky said simultaneously.

“Did you ever wonder,” said Mommy, “what Rivkah *Imeinu* was doing by the well in the first

place? Her father Besuel was a wealthy man with plenty of servants, and even Rivkah had her own maidservants who accompanied her. Why did little Rivkah have to draw water for her family, much less for Eliezer and his ten camels? Do you know how much water a camel drinks after a long journey? And there were ten of them! That’s a tremendous amount of water for a little girl to carry. Why couldn’t she send her maidservants to do that for her?

“And the answer is because she wanted to do chessed, even if it could be done by someone else. And look what happened - Hashem rewarded her immediately with the *zechus* to marry Yitzchok Avinu and to become the mother of *Klal Yisroel*!”

“Now you *kinderlach* did something similar tonight. You jumped up and offered to go get the bread, when our housekeeper could have done it instead. And look what happened as a result!” - Mommy emptied the candies and treats from the bags onto the kitchen table - “Hashem rewarded you with enough treats to last for two weeks!”

Ari and Malky looked at each other in amazement. It hadn’t occurred to them that the candy was a reward from Hashem, but now it made sense.

“Ari, Malky,” Mommy said. “I can still hear the music from the *Hachnosas Sefer Torah* outside. Why don’t you go back out and enjoy it until supper is ready?”

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

We should never be lazy to do a Mitzvah. Although others can do it, we should try to grab the opportunity. Who knows? Perhaps Hashem will repay us right away!



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