



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

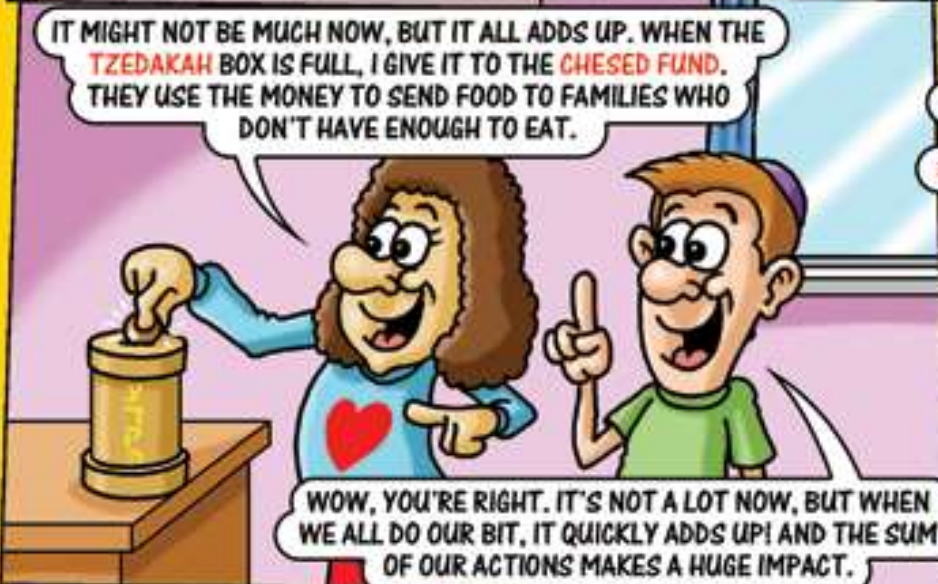
SHEMOT: IN FOR A PENNY!



HEY LOOK! THERE'S A PENNY OVER THERE.

NINA, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST FOR A PENNY? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO YOU?

IT'S NOT MUCH TO ME BUT IT CAN TURN INTO SOMETHING GREATER. EVERY TIME I FIND MONEY, I PICK IT UP AND TAKE IT HOME TO PUT IN MY TZEDEKAH (CHARITY) BOX. I PUT SOME OF MY OWN BABYSITTING MONEY IN TOO.



IT MIGHT NOT BE MUCH NOW, BUT IT ALL ADDS UP. WHEN THE TZEDEKAH BOX IS FULL, I GIVE IT TO THE CHESED FUND. THEY USE THE MONEY TO SEND FOOD TO FAMILIES WHO DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.

WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S NOT A LOT NOW, BUT WHEN WE ALL DO OUR BIT, IT QUICKLY ADDS UP! AND THE SUM OF OUR ACTIONS MAKES A HUGE IMPACT.



IN THIS WEEK'S PARASHA, PHARAOH GAVE THE EVIL DECREE TO KILL THE JEWISH BABY BOYS. THE TORAH TELLS US THAT THE JEWISH MIDWIVES, SHIFRA AND PUAH DISOBEYED PHARAOH AND SAVED THE BABIES.



THE MEDIEVAL COMMENTATOR RASHI (1040-1105) EXPLAINS THAT THEIR NAMES REFLECT THE AFFECTIONATE WAY THEY CARED FOR THE BABIES.

THESE WOMEN WERE SAVING THE WORLD ONE BABY AT A TIME. WHY DON'T WE CALL THEM NAMES THAT DESCRIBE THEIR TREMENDOUS WORK (LIKE HATZALAH OR TESHUAH) INSTEAD OF NAMES THAT DESCRIBE THEIR COOING AND CUDDLING THE BABIES?



RABBI YAAKOV YITZCHAK RUDERMAN SUGGESTS THAT TRUE GREATNESS IS DISPLAYED IN THE SMALL, SUBTLE ACTIONS THAT SHOW THE TRUTH ABOUT A PERSON. SHIFRA AND PUAH WERE HEROIC IN SAVING CHILDREN AT A TIME OF DANGER, BUT THEY HAD THE SENSITIVITY TO DO IT WITH LOVE AND CARE.



SHIFRA AND PUAH WERE DISCREET. THEY WERE MUCH HAPPIER TO BE KNOWN AS AFFECTIONATE MIDWIVES THAN LIFE-SAVING HEROINES.

MOST OF US AREN'T SAVING LIVES EVERY DAY, BUT LIKE NINA, WE CAN ALSO BE LIKE SHIFRA AND PUAH WHEN WE CHOOSE SMALL ACTIONS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.



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Tribe is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.

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