



A Story for the Shabbos Table

סיפורי הבעל שם טוב

THE SHINY COINS

There was a Chassid of the Alter Rebbe whose name was Reb Gavriel. Reb Gavriel and his wife were childless for many years. However, he was very successful in his business, so that at least he could give lots of tzedaka. Whenever the Alter Rebbe would send the messengers to collect Tzedaka, Reb Gavriel would give a lot of money.

There was a time, however, when his business had turned for the worse. He had lost a lot of money. But he did not tell the Rebbe about this.

One time, the Alter Rebbe needed money to free a poor family from jail, so he sent his messenger to collect money. He asked Reb Gavriel for a certain amount of money. But because he had lost his money, he simply did not have the money that the Rebbe needed.

Reb Gavriel was very upset that he did not have the money that the Rebbe asked him for.

When Reb Gavriel's wife learned of the problem, she sold all her jewelry to raise the needed funds. She even polished the coins in honor of the Rebbe and the mitzvah of Pidyon Shevuyim (redeeming captives). Then she carefully wrapped the coins in a cloth bag and gave them to her husband. "Here is the money, take it to our Rebbe!" she said.

Reb Gavriel set out for the town of Liadi. Soon after his arrival, he entered the Rebbe's room with his bag of

Tzedakah. When the Rebbe opened the bag, and saw the shiny coins, he said.

"In the Mishkan there were many donations of gold, silver and copper, but the only thing that shone was the copper brought by the Jewish women. From these the kiyor and iots base (כיור וכנו) were made. Tell me, where did this money come from?"

Reb Gavriel then explained to the Rebbe how he lost his money, and that his wife sold her own jewelry to raise the money.

The Rebbe put his head on his hands and thought for a while. Then the Rebbe raised his head and said, "In the merit of your wife's actions, may you both be blessed with sons and daughters, long life and wealth." And so it was. Reb Gavriel began selling gems and soon became rich. His wife gave birth to many fine children. And they both were able to retire to a life of Torah study, prayer, and acts of charity.