

**Good Shabbos Everyone.** continued from last week...(click [here](#) to read the beginning of this story from last week.) Rabbi Steinberg now appealed to Zaleski. Could he find the two boys? Officially the head of state security was superior to the local militia, and could presumably get his questions answered. But Zaleski knew that nothing could prevent the local chiefs from lying about the whereabouts of the two boys. So after asking the chiefs of each precinct if they had any information on the two boys—and getting a negative response— Zaleski set out on a precinct by precinct inspection of Cracow's jails, for what appeared to be just a simple inventory for bureaucratic purposes.

Down he went, into the dingy basements of each precinct headquarters. The cell doors were thrown open for Zaleski's inspection. Some were empty; others contained the criminals and political offenders who had been sentenced to spending time in Cracow's jails.

Nothing seemed at all out of the ordinary—until Zaleski came to the Wolnica precinct. The inspection was proceeding normally. As they descended to the basement, Zaleski noticed that unlike the other doors, which had been opened for his inspection, one door at the end of the dark corridor had remained closed.

"What about this door?" he asked the police chief. "That?" The chief forced a smile. "Oh, that's just storage—we keep our coal in there." "I'd like to inspect it, too," Zaleski said firmly. The smile wavered slightly. "Um, well—actually, the keys are lost. I don't think we can ..."

"Stand back, all of you." The militiamen backed off in alarm as Zaleski pulled out his firearm and leveled it at the door. A single shot—and the padlock was blown off. The door swung open. The room actually did have a coal bin ... but it also contained two filthy figures: the missing Jewish boys. Zaleski berated the militiamen as the terrified police chief blamed it lamely on lost records and confused paperwork.

"Enough," he said finally. "Just get them cleaned up and over my headquarters. I'll take care of this matter myself!" Relieved that he had gotten off so easily, the militia chief readily acceded. By the end of the day, two shivering, terrified boys were standing before Zaleski in his office. They were astonished to learn that the Polish army officer facing them was actually a Jew, and that he had been sent by Rabbi Steinberg to locate them.

After being beaten and locked up for two weeks, the two boys could hardly believe that they would now be set free—"as long as you leave Cracow immediately, and I never see either of you again!" Zaleski warned them. The boys fervently agreed, and that was the last Norman saw of them—until this Simchas Torah in Brooklyn. "I was one of those two boys," the chassid declared.

"How on earth did you recognize me?" Mr. Salsitz wanted to know. "I don't know you at all!"

"I could never forget your face. I have never stopped thinking about how you rescued us from that coal bin. The minute you walked in, I recognized you."

The chassid reminded Mr. Salsitz that the passage of years had left varying effects. "I was a child then, so of course I appear different. Your outward appearance hasn't changed as much."

It was true, Mr. Salsitz realized. The chassid, who had been a youth, now sported a beard and a black coat. He had virtually become a different person. And as Mr. Salsitz's friends looked on, he and the red-bearded chassid were joyously reunited, sharing tears of thanksgiving and long-suppressed joy!

Why did Hashem create Odom HaRishon (Adam, the first man) alone, and then later create his helpmate Chava (Eve)? One of the more inspiring explanations is the following: Hashem wanted to teach us the lesson of how important it is to show appreciation to those who do good for us. Odom HaRishon (Adam) was all alone and he searched for a help mate among all the animals, but none was appropriate for him. Hashem created Odom HaRishon alone, to give him time to experience what it was like to be alone, so that when Chava (Eve) was created, he would appreciate her to the fullest.

We see this concept from the story we just retold. The Chassid showed appreciation for Norman by recognizing, honoring and thanking Norman at the Hakafos. By learning the lesson of appreciation from this week's story and Torah portion, we will all be better Yidden in the year to come! **Good Shabbos Everyone.**

**A Refuah Shleimah to Shusha Malka bas Golda "Anyone who brings merit to the masses, no wrongdoing will come into his hands."**