

Good Shabbos Everyone. The Torah tells us this week how Moshe Rabeinu set up the Mishkan (the Holy Tabernacle). At the conclusion of the account of setting up the Mishkan, the Torah tells us how the Shechina - Hashem's holy spirit filled the Mishkan.

The Torah tells us that the Shechina dwelt on the Mishkan (the Holy Tabernacle) of the Bnai Yisroel "throughout their journeys." (Shemos 40:38) Because we know that the lessons of the Torah are eternal, we can learn out an inspirational lesson from this verse. Namely, that wherever the Bnai Yisroel will travel in exile, the Holy Shechina will escort them, as is hinted to in the verse "throughout their journeys." The following amazing true story shows how the Shechina escorts even those Jews who are the farthest from Hashem.

Ohr Somayach, both in Monsey, New York and in Yerushalayim is one of the foremost Yeshivas for Ba'aley Teshuvah, those who are returning to their Jewish roots. Every student at Ohr Somayach has his own special story of how Divine Providence led him back to his roots. The story of Jonathan Goldberg (not his real name) revolves around a T-shirt with some Yiddish letters on it.

It all goes back to a Jew in Massachusetts who watched with pain as refugees who had arrived in the U.S. after World War II daily threw away Yiddish newspapers and books as they stopped speaking and reading Yiddish in order to assimilate into the American culture. Appalled by this abandonment of Jewish culture he began collecting the material left on the curb by his neighbors, and eventually established the International Yiddish Book Library in Boston.

Jonathan Goldberg's parents had little knowledge of Orthodox Judaism but were curious to see what went on at the book fair hosted by this library. For their son they bought a souvenir T-shirt, with the library's name and logo imprinted on it in Yiddish.

Years later, Jonathan begrudgingly attended a Sunday morning class in a Conservative Hebrew School in the southern community to which they had moved. The class was taught by the wife of the rabbi of the local Orthodox synagogue. Jonathan wore the Yiddish T-shirt to the class. The teacher was curious about the T-shirt and she began to speak the young man. The conversation about the T-shirt led to a relationship with the family, which eventually resulted in the entire family becoming observant and sending their son to Ohr Somayach. (From Rabbi Mendel Weinbach) **Good Shabbos Everyone.**