

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.

The Cohen family (not their real name) lived a secular existence in Eretz Yisroel. Although the Cohens were proud to be Israeli, they had little pride about being Jewish. Then one day, an event happened that forever changed their lives.

Every Saturday night, Mr. Cohen and his wife used to take their three-year-old daughter to visit her grandfather. The grandfather was Torah observant, although his children had not followed in his religious footsteps.

One particular Motzoi Shabbos, the Cohen family headed over to the house of the grandfather in order to visit the older man. That Saturday night was different, however. For on that Motzoi Shabbos, the Cohens showed up a little earlier than usual, and the grandfather had not yet made Havdala. As Mr. and Mrs. Cohen and their three-year-old daughter gathered around, the grandfather made Havdala. The young girl was intrigued by the ceremony that she witnessed; she had never seen such a thing. The young girl asked her grandfather what he was doing.

The grandfather was surprised that the girl was ignorant of Havdala. The grandfather then asked the parents if they had ever taken the girl to a Beit Kneset.

"Abba," the girl said in her high-pitched voice. "I want to go to a Beit Kneset." The father quickly brushed off the request of the young girl. The three-year-old girl asked again, "Please take me to a Beit Kneset." The more the father ignored his daughter, the more she persisted. The family went home and the girl went to bed. The parents agreed among themselves that they were not going to take the girl to the Beit Kneset. After all, the Cohens were not religious and they did not attend shul.

The next day, the girl began asking again to be brought to a Beit Kneset. The parents refused again. The girl then did an extraordinary thing for a three-year-old. She refused to suck her thumb until she would be brought to a Beit Kneset. The parents still refused.

As the week grew long, the requests of the girl seemed to grow even stronger. By Thursday, the girl refused to eat anything unless she was brought to a Beit Kneset. Finally, having no other choice, the parents reluctantly brought the girl to a shul. That Shabbos, the mother lit Shabbos candles as the father took the young girl to shul. The parents were inspired by the tenacity of their three-year-old daughter who had insisted on going to shul. They thought perhaps that the young girl had a direct line to heaven. Little by little, the whole Cohen family became Torah observant -- all on the strength of their three-year-old daughter! **Good Shabbos Everyone.**