



# Why Are You Watching Me?

לזכות  
 החייל בצבאות ה'  
 לוי יצחק שיחי'  
 לרגל הולדתו כ' אדר ה'תשפ"א  
 ולזכות אחיו ואחותו  
 מנחם מענדל, חי' מושקא  
 נדפס ע"י הוריהם  
 הרה"ת ר' ישראל  
 וזוגתו מרת שטערנא שרה שיחי'  
 טרייטעל



Dovid<sup>1</sup> woke with a start. Sensing something was wrong, he instinctively reached for his sack that contained all his possessions and money belt but it wasn't there.

"Gone!" he cried in dismay. "Everything I had was stolen in the middle of the night. What can I do now?"

As he sat down on the bed completely distraught, his mind flooded with the events that led up to this moment.

Dovid, a devout Chossid of the Mezritcher Maggid, had spent a lengthy period of time in his holy presence and felt it was now time to return home. For the past few months, however, each time he asked for a *bracha* to make the trip, the Maggid had insisted that he stay on.

Finally, just the day before, he had received permission and the Maggid's final words were still ringing in his ears. "Go in peace and closely guard all your possessions along your journey so that they are not stolen."

Now on the second day of his journey he turned back to Mezritch to seek the Rebbe's advice.

With a knowing smile, the Maggid said, "Did I not warn you that you should guard your possessions? But don't worry I will have everything returned to you."

The Maggid instructed Dovid to travel back to the hotel and to walk a certain distance where he would then meet a person. Providing Dovid with an exact description of the individual, the Maggid told him to approach him and

to tell him that "the Rebbe instructs you to return all my things," and he will certainly comply.

Dovid carefully followed the directions. He met the man who turned out to be the thief and he did not even try to deny the crime he had committed.

"Yes, I did take your things and I will return them but I want to do it through your Rebbe because I have a small question to ask him first."

The unusual pair traveled to the Maggid.

Upon arrival they were allowed entry into the Rebbe's room.

The thief now spoke what was on his mind. "Indeed I did steal his things and I will return them but first I insist that you answer my question."

He continued, "I see you are a holy man and were blessed with a pure vision that can see across the world. This is precisely my question: Would it not be more appropriate for you to be looking at holy things during this time and not at the lowliness of how a thief conducts a robbery?"

The Maggid replied: "There is a time during the day when I am in a room in which it is forbidden to think holy thoughts. It was while I was in there that I saw the robbery."

The thief returned every single item back to its rightful owner. **T**

(*Otzar Sippurei Chabad*  
 vol. 14, p. 264.)

1. The name does not appear in the original. It was added here for the sake of clarity.