



A Debate Over His Tears

לזכות
החתן הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל
והכלה המהוללה מרת שרה רייזל שיחיו
ראזענבלום
לרגל חתונתם אור ל"ד כסלו ה'תשפ"א
נדפס ע"י הוריהם
הרה"ת ר' יהושע דוד
וזוגתו חנה ומשפחתם שיחיו
ראזענבלום
הרה"ת ר' ארי' יצחק הכהן
וזוגתו מרת ראשא רוזא ומשפחתם
שיחיו
וויינשטיין



Before the Mezritcher Maggid revealed himself to the world as a *tzaddik* and Chassidic master, he lived in utter poverty. His wife would earn a few meager coins each day by kneading dough for other women who would compensate her for her work and also share a slice of bread with her to take home.

Avraham, their young and only son, who would later be known as Reb Avraham the Malach, never complained about the physical welfare of his family. He was a diligent student in the local *cheder* and made great progress in his learning.

One day it happened that she was not called to knead dough and so she had

nothing to feed her young son. With no choice, he left to *cheder* on an empty stomach. When he arrived home there was still nothing to eat so he was forced to go to sleep hungry.

The next day arrived but brought with it no reprieve. Avraham left to *cheder* without having tasted a morsel of food in two days.

His mother, wrought with anguish over the situation and tremendous pity for her dear son, went to her husband, the future Maggid of Mezritch, and shared with him the calamity of their plight. Hearing his wife's woe, he began to cry bitter tears.

His emotional reaction made an impression in Heaven and a disagreement

broke out as to how to respond. The group of angels on the right declared that of course he was justified in crying. When one hears that a young Jewish child needs to go to *cheder* without food of course one must be bothered.

The other group on the left countered:

"He only cried because it is his only son and had this been the situation with a different child he would not have been concerned at all. Above all, it is a physical matter and he did not react appropriately."

The decision in Heaven was that he would have to reveal himself to the world.

He turned to his Rebbetzin and said:

"We were already wrong about this... now bread we will have!"

This all took place when the Maggid had just concluded davening and his *tefillin shel rosh* was already in its bag. When he removed the *shel yad* and reached for the bag to put it away as well, he discovered a coin.

"No!" He declared. "This coin came about through a miracle and we will have no benefit from it at all." He continued, "But if you go into the house there is some money hidden away that you can use."

From that point on his fame and name spread far and wide! **T**

(*Likkutei Sippurim*—
Perlow, Maggid #1)