



# BE A *MENTSCH*



*You were so considerate!*

## פְּרִישַׁת מְצֻרֶעַ

The word חֶסֶד, **Kindness**, comes from the word חָס or חוּס, **care**. Actions come from feelings that we have and a decision is made to do something because we consider it right to do. **Kindness** comes from **caring** about others; first, we must care for others and only then can we do kindness.

In this week's Parsha, מְצֻרֶעַ, we learn about צָרַעַת that may appear on the walls of a person's house. If the walls change colors, it is possible that the house will become טָמֵא. This will depend on the פְּהֵן's decision. Once the house has צָרַעַת, the house and everything inside it becomes טָמֵא indefinitely.

The Torah teaches that the פְּהֵן must first order the person's furniture and all the items that are in a person's house to be removed before coming to look at the house. This instruction is important because we want to prevent anything else from becoming טָמֵא. Rashi shares with us a very interesting idea. First, he asks what is the problem if the items in the house become טָמֵא? If it's made from metal or glass, you can dip it in the מְקוּהָ and it can regain its status of טְהוֹרָה. If its food that becomes טָמֵא, you can still eat it when a person is טָמֵא. So why do we clear everything out of the house? It requires a tremendous effort, it is time consuming, it is potentially very expensive and a location must be found to store everything!

Rashi answers that the Torah is worried about china or porcelain which can't be made טְהוֹר in a מְקוּהָ. They would have to be broken and destroyed if it became טָמֵא. Since the Torah cares not to waste other people's property, the פְּהֵן orders the house to be quarantined first. **Being a Mentsch** means **being careful** about other peoples belongings, property or food. This is a trait we should strive for because it is the first step in becoming a **kind person**.

Have a Great Shabbos!