

# עולם חסד יבנה

תהלים פט ג



**Rebbetzin Batsheva Esther Kanievsky** (1932–2011), ע"ה, was the beloved wife of Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, שליט"א, a great תורה leader of our generation today. The Rebbetzin was renowned for the inspiration and *chizuk*, comfort, she gave to all who sought her out. Each week, hundreds of Jewish women from across ישראל and around the world lined the narrow staircase leading to her tiny apartment to receive her heartfelt ברכות, advice, and passionate encouragement. She radiated love to each and every woman, regardless of their background!

At one point in her life, Rebbetzin Kanievsky held a bookkeeping position at a nearby seminary. Her job ended in time to pick up her children from school and take care of them. Her neighbor, though, held a job that ended an hour *after* their young children ended school. Rebbetzin Kanievsky offered to babysit the neighbors' children since she was "anyways" taking care of her own. She babysat the neighbors' children every day for 2 years! Whenever her neighbors tried to pay, she refused, saying it was her way of making sure that her neighbor was able to keep her job, and the husband didn't have to leave his learning early in order to pick up the child. She claimed that it posed no hardship for her; it wasn't even a חסד! And besides, she would receive compensation from ה' for the extra learning she enabled the husband to do...

About 40 years later, the Rebbetzin's granddaughter became engaged to one of the children for whom she babysat's son! During the engagement, she explained how one can sometimes see the result of their *טון* in this world! Perhaps in the זכות of allowing the husband to learn those extra 45 minutes every day, she was זוכה to this great *שידוך*!

Then she said, "Do you think it was easy to watch them? I was happy to do it, though it presented many difficulties...!"

Rebbetzin Batsheva Kanievsky was a *חסד* בעלת par excellence. May we learn how to emulate her ways!!

## ***Acts of חסד We Can Perform Any Time!!***

***Provide a listening ear, Call or visit a sick or elderly person, Initiate a new friendship, Say "Thank-You!", Give a compliment, Do a favor, Leave someone a kind note, Share your smile, DAVEN for someone in need,***

***AND ALWAYS REMEMBER...***

***חסד BEGINS AT HOME!!***

What can we learn about *טון* from this story?

A. Sometimes we think we are doing a *טון* for another person, yet really, we are doing *טון* for ourselves! There's no doubt that Rebbetzin Kanievsky, with all her צדקות, while babysitting, was also investing values and מידות in the children, and those children would pass on those values and מידות to her own grandchildren!

B. We can learn from Rebbetzin Kanievsky how to give graciously without making the recipient of our *טון* feel how the *טון* is an inconvenience or burdensome for us.

