

Mussar HaSePurim

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BS"D

"OLD MOTHER HUBBARD WENT TO HER CUPBOARD TO GET HER POOR DOG A BONE. BUT WHEN SHE GOT THERE, HER CUPBOARD WAS BARE AND SO HER POOR DOG HAD NONE." (MOTHER GOOSE 23:15-16)

*This place left
intentionally
blank.*

THE COMMENTATORS ASK, WHY DOES Mother Goose have to tell us that Mother Hubbard's dog had none? Doesn't it stand to reason that if her cupboard was bare that she had nothing to feed her poor dog? Of course she had none!

Furthermore, why did Old Mother Hubbard go to her cupboard in the first place? Didn't she already know that it was bare from the time she had taken the last item out? And certainly she knew that she had not restocked it with groceries in the interim! What is the meaning behind her extraneous behavior?

The answer is a resounding yes. It is the classic Slobodka-Novahrdik-Salant-Brisk approach: the difference between *herren--*knowing and *deherren--*fully comprehending on an emotional level. Of course the reader will infer from the cupboard's bareness that the dog had none. But had the verse not told us that the dog had none, we would not have felt the dog's hunger and pain.

Similarly, Mother Hubbard certainly knew that her cupboard was bare, but she went to fetch a bone from it anyway because in her selfish desire for a bone, she did not fathom a bare cupboard equalled no bone.

As we traverse the highway of life, often situations arrive that we do not feel the significance of the events we would certainly take action. But since we do not *deher* precious opportunities are missed. We must therefore internalize the events we see in order to properly respond.

*The
Eddie Scazeri?*

*Stalin's grave is
a communist
plot.*

This Mussar Hasepurim is based on thoughts expressed by Wayne and Garth, hosts of Wayne's World-SNL.
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