



## **“The Jack Story”**

**April 2018**

**One of our members walks into the chaplain’s office one day, for some friendly advice.**

**"I'm in real trouble" he said. "My neighbors across the road are going on vacation for a month. Instead of boarding their dogs, they are going to keep them locked up and a woman is coming to feed them, if she does not forget. Meanwhile the dogs will be lonely, bark all day, and howl all night, and I won't be able to sleep. Either I will have to call the ASPCA to haul them away or I'll go berserk, go over there, and set them loose and then when my neighbors return, they'll go berserk and come over and sue me.**

**The conversation was one sided, and went from 'zero to sixty' pretty quickly!**

**The Chaplain leaned forward and said “Let me tell you a story, and don't stop me if you've heard it because it will do you good to hear it again.”**

**"A fellow was speeding down a country road late at night and BANG a tire blowout. He got out, changing the tire and finding he had no jack.**

**"Then he said to himself. 'Well, I'll just walk to the nearest farmhouse and borrow a jack.' He saw a light in the distance and said, 'Well, I'm in luck; the farmer's up. I'll just knock on the door and say I'm in trouble; would you please lend me a jack? And he'll say, why sure, neighbor, help yourself, but bring it back.'**

**"He walked on a little farther and the light went out so he said to himself, 'Now he's gone to bed, and he'll be annoyed because I'm bothering him so he'll probably want \$30.00 to loan his jack. And I'll say, all right, it isn't very neighborly but I'll give you \$30.00.**

**And he'll say, do you think you can get me out of bed in the middle of the night and then offer me \$30.00? Give me a \$50 or get yourself a jack somewhere else.' And the conversation kept on going in this fellow's head and the cost of loaning the jack kept on going up!**

**"By the time he got to the farmhouse the fellow had worked himself into a lather. He turned into the gate and muttered to himself. "\$150.00 bucks just to loan a jack! All right, I'll give you \$150.00 bucks, you creep. A fellow man has an accident, all he needs is a jack to change a tire, and you probably won't lend me one no matter what I give you. That's the kind of guy you are."**

**"Walking up to the door and he knocked angrily, loudly. The farmer stuck his head out the window above the door and hollered down, 'Who's there? What can I do to help?' The fellow stopped pounding on the door and yelled up, 'You and your stupid**

jack! keep it I am not giving you a nickel to loan your jack, stick it!" ....LOL

When the Policeman stopped laughing, he started thinking, and said, "Is that what I've been doing?"

"Right," said the Chaplain, "and you'd be surprised how many people come to clergy for advice, and instead of calmly stating the facts, start building up a big IMAGINARY fight; what he'll say to his partner, what she'll say to her husband, or how they'll tell the Old Man off about his will. So I tell them the "jack story" and it rather helps put things in perspective.

"The next time I hear from them, said the Chaplain, things weren't that grim after all. One tells me that the partner was glad to meet him halfway. The woman says she can't understand it, her husband was so reasonable she thought she must have gotten somebody else on the phone. The relatives found out the Old Man had already been asking a lawyer how he could give everything to them before he died, to save them inheritance tax. End of story...

Let's think for a moment, "How true! how many of us go through life bumping into obstacles we could easily bypass; Getting aggravated or worrying silly about things that never happen , but in our mind paralyze us with imaginary foes .

"And we don't even realize what we are doing until someone startles us one day with a vivid word like a lightning flash on a dark night."

Well, the other night I was driving home from the city. I was going to be late for dinner and I had not phoned my wife. As I crawled along in a line of cars, I became more and more frustrated and angry. I'm thinking, I'll tell her I was caught in the heavy traffic and she'll say, "Why didn't you phone me before you left the office?"

Then I'll say, "What difference does it make anyway, I'm here!" And she'll say, "Yes, and I'm here, too, and but I've been here worrying all day waiting to hear from you!" And I'll say, "I suppose I haven't anything else to do but call you up every hour and make small talk!" And she'll say, "you had time to eat lunch, but no time to call your wife!". By this time, I am pulling up in front of our house and I am plenty steamed up.

As I jumped out and slammed the car door, my wife flung open the window upstairs.

"All right!" I shouted up to her, "Say it!"

"I will," she cooed softly. "Wanna borrow a jack?"

So next time you find yourself in a state of mind filled with worry and imaginary anticipation, remember "The Jack Story", and let your heart smile.

**And here is a small bit of humor from the "Moshe files" to keep you smiling:**

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house. Proceeding into the house, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room, the TV was blaring a cartoon channel and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly ran up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she may be ill, or that something serious had happened.

He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in the bed in her pajamas reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?"

"Yes" was his incredulous reply.

She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it." ...lol

**On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you; keep you safe, today and always.  
Amen**

**Should you need a shoulder to lean on or perhaps some good humor to share, don't  
hesitate to give us a call or drop us a line.**

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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