**Kiddush Hashem at Home and Away**

It had been a long week. Mr Rosenberg of Golders Green was pleased to find a seat on the busy Underground train as he headed home for Shabbos. The lady opposite him also seemed to have had a tiring week as she put her handbag down next to her and promptly fell asleep.

Dazzled by the sudden rays of light as the train emerged from the tunnel approaching Golders Green Station, the lady slowly arose from her slumber. The train soon pulled to a halt and she suddenly realised that it was her stop and dashed off the train.

Mr Rosenberg watched the scene unfold before him. As the train doors shut and the train slowly pulled away, the lady realised she had left her bag on her seat. The last thing she saw was a frum businessman walk towards her bag.

Mr Rosenberg knew he had to rush as Shabbos was fast approaching. He would not have time to trace the owner of the hand bag and try to return it before Shabbos. It would have to wait until Motsei Shabbos. Straight after havdallah, he opened the handbag and eventually found the phone number of its owner and duly called her.

“I’ve been waiting for your call!” exclaimed the lady. “Can I come around and pick it up now?”

She arrived at Mr Rosenberg’s home a short while later with a bottle of wine as a gift. Mr Rosenberg noticed the wine was kosher and had been bought from a local kosher shop. Out of curiosity he asked when she had bought the wine as the kosher stores had been shut all day.

The lady’s reply was nothing short of astonishing. As she saw a religious Jew approach her bag, she knew it was being taken so that it could be returned as soon as possible to its owner. In anticipation, she has rushed straight to the store on Friday and bought it so as to give a gift to the kind soul who would return her bag.

A remarkable Kiddush Hashem.

The Nesivos Sholom[[1]](#footnote-1) notes that the ultimate purpose of a Jew in this world is to achieve dveikus to Hashem, to create a real relationship with HKBH and live with a reality of His existence. This was really the function of the Beis Hamikdash, it created a home for the resting of Hashem’s Presence and a means to find that closeness with Hashem.

The destruction of the Beis Hamikdash and Golus generally is a darkness which means creating that spiritual reality is much harder.

But whilst it may not be easy, living with Kiddush Hashem is not just a means of fulfilling the function of the Beis Hamikdash, it is living life as it should be lived.

The Chafetz Chaim would explain Hashem’s words to Moshe: “Ki hamokom asher atah omed olov, admas kodesh hu” “The place on which you stand is holy ground”[[2]](#footnote-2). Whichever place or whatever situation you find yourself in is holy. Right here and now, this is the time and place where you are able to grow and create holiness.

The holiday season that is almost upon us is also an opportunity to create that Kiddush Hashem. I once heard a beautiful allusion to this in the Shmonei Esrei of Shabbos Mincha[[3]](#footnote-3).

People need a rest and go on holiday and for different reasons and we refer to them in this Shmonei Esrei. One is “menuchas ahavah u’nedovah” – time to spend quality time with family and loved ones. “menuchas emes v’emunah” – time to recharge spiritual batteries, to think, dream and contemplate more, to daven more slowly and spend more time learning. “menuchas sholom, v’shalva, v’hashket u’vetach” – time to recharge physical batteries and relax in quiet tranquillity.

All of these types of rests are fine, so long as “al menuchosom yakdishu es Shemecha”, that they create a Kiddush Hashem.

May we all merit to recharge our spiritual and physical batteries over the summer and live lives of Kiddush Hashem.

1. Bamidbar, Bein Hametzarim, page 200 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Shemos 3:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. I would be most grateful if any reader would let me know where I may have seen or heard this idea. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)