

2014-03 Harris - Silence

SILENCE

*By Mike Harris*

I hope that I am not committing a plagiarism. This is not my story. The classic story I want to bring to your attention was written somewhere in the eighteen hundreds, in a foreign language using the Hebrew alphabet and the Orthodox Hebrew religion. Some of you may have read a translated version because it has been translated and printed in many languages. The name of the story loosely translated in English is "Bontsha the Silent."

It is about an individual soul that comes to heaven after residing on earth with a clean slate! No sins or demerits. As you can imagine the angels in heaven were all atwitter and a buzz, this had never happened before. After spending a lifetime on earth not to have accumulated even one transgression!

The court in heaven convened and the clerk rose to read the charges. All he could say was, "There are no charges. This soul was silent." The prosecuting angel got up and said, "Since this soul has kept its silence, I will also keep silent." The presiding judge said, "Let us hear of how this man's life progressed." And so the story "Bontsha the Silent" came to be told.

I will not tell the story, I am not skilled enough and would not steal the pleasure that awaits any of you who might find in a city library, the English version. The authors name is Peretz. The title "Bontsha the Silent."

However I am entitled to an opinion. The Creator gave only one creature the unique brain able to grasp and implement an abstract thought. Here lies the clue that makes the story a classic. "Bontsha defies the creator, despite all the troubles he is burdened with, he keeps SILENT." Even after being admitted to heaven and is given the grand tour, and is told he can have anything he chooses he is defiant and chooses to be humble.

Enough! Go to a city library, find the story, read it, and enjoy and think!