

Jewish Toronto Monthly

"Last Chanukah, I received a most wonderful gift..."

by: Adrienne Gold


TORAH TALK
by Adrienne Gold

a gift of light

Last Chanukah I received a most wonderful gift. I am an avid reader and Shabbat is my favourite time to indulge...but since turning 40 something, I find that drug store glasses no longer suffice. I know I should go see my friend Deana and have an eye exam, but my vanity sends me back time and time again to the drugstore...wasting another \$16.99 on 2.25% magnifiers. Anyway, as I was saying, I got the most incredible gift from a friend... a KOSHER LAMP. Perhaps you have seen them; they are the invention of a Toronto Rabbi, and they are one of his many products that offer creative and completely halachic solutions to 'issues' that we traditionally had to "deal with". Like the lack of a bedside light to read away the hours after the kitchen is tidied and you can crawl into bed.

These lovely table lamps are basically a bulb within an elegant sleeve that swivels to expose and cover the light, making it just the perfect thing for any room in the house. But here is my point. One night I could not find my glasses anywhere. I had a brand new book to crack and the words were swimming in the diffused light of the living room. Suddenly I remembered my new KOSHER LAMP, just waiting on my nightstand. The most incredible thing was that even without my glasses, that lamp threw just the right amount of targeted light onto the page so that I could read clearly and without strain. And then I had an epiphany!! Have you ever found the print too small on something and gone to a window to bathe it in light in order to read it? Have you

ever found that you can read the paper on your porch without glasses, but inside that same feat is impossible? In that moment I suddenly realized that there was plenty in the world that I could not see, but did not mean necessarily that there was something wrong with my eyes. It was just that I didn't have enough light to see clearly.

Torah knowledge is often compared to light. "A mitzvah is a lamp", says King Solomon in Proverbs." Light is a metaphor for Torah, and light assumes three forms: light as a tool of life, light as a means of connection to a higher place and light as light". In fact, Maimonides rules that if there is only money for one thing on Shabbos, it should be for candles because candles bring the light of Shalom Bayt into the home.



This Chanukah, as you study those candles burning and shedding their determined light around you, ask yourself what it is that you have refused to see, refused to hold up to the clear and focused light of the Torah. Make the decision to move yourself out of the darkness. The light of the Menorah can not be used to benefit anything practical...we have the KOSHER LAMP for that! The light of the Chanukiah is the essential light of Torah, for it's own sake, and truly magnificent!! ✧

KOSHER LAMP'S are available at Israeli Source, see ad on the back cover.



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