

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH FROM ELUL 5785

Question: I collected tzedakah for two organizations and realized that the money got mixed up. I don't remember how much I collected for each one. What do I do now? One of them promotes *limud hatorah*, and the other helps sick children.

Answer: You should give it all to the one that supports Torah and have in mind that it should be a *zechus* for the sick children. (Rabbi A.Y.R)

Question: What's the significance of saying Nishmas? Is there an *inyan* to say 40 days in a row?

Answer: Nishmas is a uniquely special *tefillah*. It's a *chiyuv* to say it Shabbos morning in *pesukei dezimra* and it has priority over the rest of *pesukei dezimra*. Nishmas is mentioned in the Mishnah, where it is called *Birchas Hashir*. Nishmas is recited at the Pesach Seder as well. It is

assumed to be authored by the Anshei Knesses Hagedola, who also composed other *brachos* and *tefillos*.

Nishmas is an awesome expression of gratitude for the endless kindness of Hashem with a wealth of emotion and is reserved for the above special times.

As a *segula*, it is brought in *seforim* (*Ben Ish Chai* year two *Toldos*, also quoted from the *Steipler* ה"צ) as a *segula* for one who is in a tough situation to promise that when they are saved they will say *nishmas* (without the final *bracha*). This is based on the concept that strengthening oneself in appreciation and gratitude to Hashem can bring great blessing and is lately suggested as a *segula*.

However, the idea of repeating Nishmas for 40 days and other similar *segulos* need further research, because the Gemara does have very harsh words for someone who says Hallel regularly or on a regular day. Special things must remain special. This would seem to apply to Nishmas as well. Perhaps there is an authority that suggested it and explained why it may

be done, but without knowing its source, the practice must be
approached with caution and doubt. (Rabbi Y.H.)