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in a vision. The evil nobles, who normally hated each other and constantly bickered amongst themselves, were unanimous in their decision to expel the Jews from the entire province, and we were helpless, unable to utter a word. Can you imagine our surprise when we saw *Eliyohu Hanavi* enter the meeting? Disguised as a white-haired squire, he sat down unnoticed. The noblemen were passing the document around the great table, and each one signed it in turn.

"When it was handed to *Eliyohu Hanavi*, he began to object loudly. 'I disagree with this whole idea! I refuse to sign this ridiculous paper!' All of a sudden, their fragile unanimity was destroyed and all their pent-up mistrust and distaste for each other broke out. A terrible commotion erupted in the hall and in the course of the demonstration, the document was torn up. The verdict was overturned in a flash! *Eliyohu Hanavi* vanished and there was nothing for the assembled noblemen to do but leave. This was such a completely amazing turn of events that R' Shlomo and I both burst into laughter at the sight!"

TORAH GEMS

(ðǣ̃æ̃ 'ôî) íéîûǣ úćúî ÷îîð ðǣ̃æ̃ úǣ ǣćîú ÷îîð èî äùð ðùǣ úǣ ðǣ̃æ̃

In our time it has not been difficult to remember Amalek, for he, wearing different uniforms and guises, has ravaged and destroyed Jews in the millions. Yet, the *mitzvah*, and its moral message has escaped the notice of many Jews. We live in a just and fair world, according to G-d's view of things. We, with our finite eyes and minds, however, sometimes perceive this world to be unfair and unjust. We therefore ignore Amalek and always assign him the role of being the aberration in world society, the exception to the rule, the mad murderer whose presence and behavior is always unforeseen and unavoidable.

R' Berel Wein Shlit" a elaborates and says that Amalek, and its evil, thrive on the shortcomings of good society. If honest people wink at cheating, simply because they mistakenly believe that it does not affect them directly, Amalek certainly feels justified in cheating. If human life is not held dear in good societies, then Amalek, on a frighteningly grand scale will view human life as cheap and certainly secondary to political and national concerns. *Chazal* tell us that the city of Sodom was destroyed, not because of its millions of bad people but rather due to the absence of ten good people in its midst. Good people would have spoken up, would have been an example to others, would have introduced a different moral climate into that city, and therefore they would have saved Sodom from destruction. Amalek can be prevented and combated by the presence of uncompromising good in society. It is the vacuum of the absence of good that allows Amalek to arrive on the scene and flourish.

[illegible][illegible]

מעשה אבות... סימן לבנים

(à-è øúñà úíêâî) 'áââ íáëäðáúá äîä íéãääëä àèìùé øùà àää êâôäðä

In the city of Berditchev, the *Shamash* of the great *Rebbe*, **R' Levi Yitzchok Berdichever ZT"L** once recounted the following story about his *rebbe*. When R' Levi Yitzchok was serving as rabbi in Pinsk, **R' Shlomo Karliner ZT"L**, lived nearby. It happened once that R' Levi Yitzchok sent a messenger requesting R' Shlomo to come to his home. When he came, the two *tzadikim* sat for many hours looking intently at each other, but saying nothing at all. After hours had passed, they suddenly began laughing out loud. Then, R' Shlomo stood up and took his leave.

R' Levi Yitzchok's *shamash* had been watching the whole scene and was completely baffled. Finally, he asked his *Rebbe* to explain. R' Levi Yitzchok replied, "For some time I have known that the Jews of our province have been under the threat of a terrible decree. The "great" nobles of the region were about to meet in order to confirm this edict. I tried with all my power to bring their plans down, but to no avail. One day, I prayed with such extreme fervor begging *Hashem* to crush the evil edict, that I felt my soul almost depart from my body. Try as I might, I received no answer to my prayers. But then I received a Heavenly message that if the holy R' Shlomo Karliner would join me in my petition, it would not be turned down, for isn't it true that *Eliyohu Hanavi* himself, often visits R' Shlomo?"

"I lost no time in summoning him to me. He arrived at the exact time the evil noblemen were gathered in their meeting, discussing the final implementation of their terrible plan. We were paralyzed with fear as we observed the meeting