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a complete recovery,' to which the *Rebbe* answered with an emphatic, 'Amen.' 'But *Rebbe*,' I continued, 'the specialist is still a little worried because he can't move his thumb. He thinks that more surgery will be necessary to repair the damaged vein.' The *Rebbe* made a gesture with his left hand, as if to negate what I had just told him. 'Ach!' he said dismissively. This occurred at precisely 12:20 AM. last night." His brother wished him well and ended the fax..

R' Chaim read the paper and was astounded. 12:20 AM in New York was 6:20 AM in Johannesburg - the exact time his pain had disappeared! The next time he went to the doctor for a check-up, he was asked to move his thumb in all directions. It worked! The Doctor couldn't believe his eyes. "How did you do that?" he asked.

R' Chaim has since returned to his job as a *shochet* and his thumb works just fine, thank G-d. "This is a miracle that I will tell over for many generations. With one small gesture of his hand, the *Rebbe* was able to help me from thousands of miles away," he said happily.

TORAH GEMS

(áé-áé) 'ǎǎ íéöî õðàà ðǎéà ìë éúééǎǎ ǎǎǎ àìéìá íéöî õðàà éúðáòǎ

The *Ba'al Haggadah* learns out from this *posuk* "עָלַם יְהוָה אֶת מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת אֶלְיָשָׁר" - "*I (took them out) and not through an angel.*" Why was it necessary for Hashem to redeem the Jewish people all by Himself, without employing the use of any intervening angels, as is the case in many other Divine rescue situations?

R' Shaul Nathanson ZT"L bases his answer on the following question of philosophical nature: Who is greater - a celestial angel or a righteous *tzaddik*? Each serves *Hashem* in a most lofty manner and merits a certain measure of Divine grace. However, we find throughout history, that *Hashem* makes use of angels and Heavenly beings in order to save worthy and righteous individuals. From when the Angel Gavriel came down and saved *Avrohom Avinu* in the fiery furnace of Nimrod, until the present day, angels are sent from Heaven to serve and protect the *tzadikim* and those worthy of salvation. From here we can surmise that in truth, a *tzadik* is actually greater than an angel.

But an angel will only serve one who it believes to be greater than himself. Sinners and unworthy people will not merit such assistance. When the Jews came to the Red Sea, the Angel Samael complained - "אֲנִי אֶלֹהִים אֵלֶּם" - "*These (Jews) serve gods*" - and why should an angel help them? In the end, Hashem split the sea without any angels. Likewise, Hashem Himself, who knows the nature of His people and their inherent goodness, carried out the final plague of מָוֶת alone, since the angels could not be counted on to do the job.

[illegible]

ɪ̯ɛ̯ɛ̯áá íéúáá ò ò í ù ʂàùò ùáá÷á í ùà áéá è"à , íéòòíí ààòéù ɪ̯áééá , àù÷á
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מעשה אבות... סימן לבנים

(á-é) 'áěá í á éú î ù øùà éúúà úàà ... êđá íáá êđá êđæáá øôñú òò î îà

The slaughterhouse in Johannesburg, South Africa was located some 120 kilometers from the city. One of the *shochtim*, A *Lubavitcher Chasid* by the name of Chaim Klein, was about to slaughter a cow, when it decided to take revenge against the human race. He had just approached the massive animal when it managed to free its front leg. One swift kick was all it took to imbed the razor-sharp knife blade that he was holding, deep into the palm of Chaim's left hand. He was rushed to a local hospital where an emergency operation was performed. Eventually, a specialist was called in and after examining the hand he diagnosed: The vein leading to the thumb had been severed and surgery was unavoidable. But since he had already lost approximately two liters of blood, the doctor suggested that any further surgery be postponed for the time being.

Chaim stayed in the hospital for a few days. On the fourth morning after the accident, Chaim awoke in terrible pain, unbearable pain, right where the vein was severed. He sat up in pure agony, clutching his hand. But then, as if miraculously, without any medication, the pain began to subside and soon passed, and he lay back down. Glancing at the clock, he noticed that it was 6:20 AM. Thankfully, he dozed back off to sleep.

That afternoon, Chaim received a fax from his brother in New York. "Last night, I was able to approach the *Rebbe*, **R' Menachem Mendel Schneerson ZT"L**, and I asked if I could mention someone for a blessing. The *Rebbe* responded with an affirmative nod of his head. I then told him what had happened to you, and concluded with the words, 'I am asking for a blessing for