

Anecdote about Rabbis (5)



Avraham is a 12year old known for his total lack of religious study, so when his *barmitzvah** day arrives, Rabbi Bloom is not about to let this go without comment. Avraham performs his barmitzvah as best he can with his minimal preparation and when it comes time to receive his presents, Avraham gets what most *barmitzvah* boys are given – a daily prayer book; a set of Jewish Festivals prayer books; a *kiddush cup** from the congregation’s ladies guild; an encyclopedia – “The History of the Jewish People from Bible Times to the Present”; and a bible (old testament).

Rabbi Bloom then addresses the *barmitzvah* boy, “My dear Avraham. You have received today a number of treasures of Judaism in book form that will surely enrich your life and make it holy in the eyes of God. I also have a gift for you.”

With that, Rabbi Bloom pulls out an umbrella from behind the lectern and says to Avraham, “I present you with this umbrella because I want to give you something that at least I know for certain you will open.”

*kiddush cup = Shabbat and Jewish holiday meals begin with a blessing over a cup of ritual wine. Many families have a special glass or goblet (cup) specifically for this purpose.