

# The Great Jewish Mom

Highland Park · May 9, 2016

## 1. The cultivator

אִשׁ & אִשָּׁה



## 2. The sympathizer

חולדה דכתיב יולך חלקיהו הכהן ואחיקם ועכבור וגו' ובמקום דקאי ירמיה היכי מתנביא איהו אמרי בי רב משמיה דרב חולדה קרובת ירמיה היתה ולא הוה מקפיד עליה ויאשיה גופיה היכי שביק ירמיה ומשדר לגבה אמרי דבי רבי שילא מפני שהנשים רחמניות הן

-Talmud, Megillah 14b

## 3. The home maker

HOME	HOUSE
Family	Appreciation
Hobbies	Tax Benefits
Friends	Diversification
Neighbors	Collateral
Relaxation	Place to Work
Privacy	Leverage
Freedom	Credit
Security	Mortgage
<b>Emotional</b> The experiences you have in the house.	<b>Structural</b> The physical shelter.

Copyright 2013 Family Money Group, LLC



אימים קודם יום הכפורים מפרשיין בהן גדול מביתו ללשכת פרהרין ומתקינין לו כהן אחר תחתיו לשמא יארע בו פסול ס"ר יהודה אומר אף אשה אחרת מתקינין לו שמא תמות אשתו שנאמר יוכפר בעדו ובעד ביתו **ביתו** זו אשתו אמרו לו אם כן אין לדבר סוף:

-Mishna, Yoma 1:1

A **HOUSE** is made of  
*Bricks & Beams*  
A **HOME** is made of  
*Hopes & Dreams*

## 4. The experiential educator

What is *torat imekha*? What kind of a Torah does the mother pass on? I admit that I am not able to define precisely the masoretic role of the Jewish mother. Only by circumscription I hope to be able to explain it. Permit me to draw upon my own experiences. I used to have long conversations with my mother. In fact, it was a monologue rather than a dialogue. She talked and I “happened” to overhear. What did she talk about? I must use an halakhic term in order to answer this question: she talked *me-inyana de-yoma*. I used to watch her arranging the house in honor of a holiday. I used to see her recite prayers; I used to watch her recite the sidra every Friday night and I still remember the nostalgic tune. I learned from her very much.

Most of all I learned that Judaism expresses itself not only in formal compliance with the law but also in a living experience. She taught me that there is a flavor, a scent and warmth to *mitzvot*. I learned from her the most important thing in life — to feel the presence of the Almighty and the gentle pressure of His hand resting upon my frail shoulders. Without her teachings, which quite often were transmitted to me in silence, I would have grown up a soulless being, dry and insensitive.

The laws of Shabbat, for instance, were passed on to me by my father; they are a part of *mussar avikha*. The Shabbat as a living entity, as a queen, was revealed to me by my mother; it is a part of *torat imekha*. The fathers *knew* much about the Shabbat; the mothers *lived* the Shabbat, experienced her presence, and perceived her beauty and splendor.

The fathers taught generations how to observe the Shabbat; mothers taught generations how to greet the Shabbat and how to enjoy her twenty-four hour presence.

- Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveichik, *Hesped for the Rebbetzin of Talne*

## 5. The faith builder

יִיבֹל מִי שְׂאִיז לֵה לֹא עֲלִיז

ולא על אחרים קידושין הולך כמותה ואזה זה זה ולד שפחה ונכרית:

- Mishna, Kiddushin 3:12

אם  
אומה  
אמונה