

## ***The Piano Lesson***

***by Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer***

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the small boy to a concert performance by the great Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE."

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit; keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That's the way it is with G\*d. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly gracefully flowing music. But, with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful.

Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master whispering in your ear, "Don't quit; keep playing." Feel loving arms around you. Know that strong hands are joining in playing the concerto of your life. Remember, G\*d doesn't call the equipped; G\*d equips the called.