

## RABBI JACK'S MESSAGE IN A MINUTE



This is a true story ( I heard from another Rabbi). As the Holocaust began, two very worried parents put their only child, six year old Berel on the famous "kindertransport" train to safety. The young boy was placed in an orphanage in a small town in England. Berel cried uncontrollably every day, missing his mom and dad beyond comprehension. One morning he heard that King George VI would be traveling through his village. Barricades were placed along the main road, and soon the royal carriage could be seen coming. Berel had a plan. He jumped over the barrier and ran towards the monarch, but was stopped short by the many guards around the vehicle. The King noticed the commotion and thought the lad must have something important to say to take such a risk, so he ordered his security detail to bring Berel forward. He told the King his tragic story and begged him to bring his mother and father back to him. George replied that Great Britain was at war with Germany and his request was simply impossible. "But you're the King of England, you can do anything", retorted Berel. One month to the day, Berel's parents knocked on the door of the group home, and the family was reunited.

Judaism was created for those who seek a novel answer to life's many quandaries. Abraham could not fathom a world of multiple deities, so he was determined to find the single voice of the Almighty. He and Sarah founded a belief system that embraced starting over, second chances, children who didn't conform, and dreamers who dared to make their visions come true. The Israelites were a clan that entered slavery and exited into a fresh and previously unheard of version of a covenantal freedom. Rosh Hashanah is heaven's annual reset button. Lord knows we need a change from what has been to what could be.

My message for the new year 5781 is to "jump the barricade". Don't be afraid to confront and hurdle over the obstacles in front of you, and to ask for help. Have hope, believe like Berel, that you are resilient enough to find a new way forward.

May the spirit of the Days of Awe imbue you with love, joy, and delight. Let the days and months ahead be filled with good health, much sweetness and when necessary the strength to jump the barricade.

L'shana tova,

Rabbi Jack