

They journeyed until they came to a small bridge. One of the horses fell, the carriage overturned and they almost drowned.

"You see!" said the father to his son. **"Things are not going smoothly, and this journey is not ordained by Heaven."**

They turned back. The son returned to his studies, but again he felt that something was missing without even knowing what it was. He went back to his father and pressed him, and he was forced to go with him a second time. As they set off, the father once again set a test like the first time: **"If everything goes smoothly."** During the journey, it happened that two of the axles of the wheels of the carriage broke.

"You see!" said the father to his son, **"Things are not going right. We are not supposed to make this journey. Is it natural for *both* axles to break? How many times have we traveled in this carriage and nothing like this has ever happened."**

They turned back. The son went back to his studies and once again felt that something was missing. His friends advised him to travel to the Tzaddik, and he went back to his father and pressed him until he was forced to travel with him again.

The son told him that this time they should not set any tests unless there was a very clear, visible sign, as it was quite natural for a horse to fall sometimes or for the axles to break.

They journeyed until they came to an inn for the night. A merchant got into conversation with them, as merchants do. They did not reveal their destination, because the rabbi felt ashamed to say he was traveling to that Tzaddik.

They discussed a variety of mundane topics, until the conversation came around to the subject of Tzaddikim and where they are to be found. The merchant spoke about a certain Tzaddik in one place and others in various other places, until they started to talk about the Tzaddik to whom they were traveling.

"Him?" said the merchant. **"He's a lightweight. I am now on my way back from him. I was there when he committed a sin!"**