

"I'm sorry!" the captain said to Dina. "The officer doesn't want to come onto the ship to see the children. He does not care! He said that if you don't want to go back to Russia, I should take you with us in the ship to the Far East!"

Dina bit her lips<sup>◇</sup>. Then she turned to explain the children what the British officer said. Some of the young girls started to cry.

"Listen," said the captain. "I will wait here with the ship until tomorrow. Maybe the British will decide to let you in. But I can only wait until morning. Then I must go on. You have one night to decide what to do if the British will not let you into Palestine."

"Yes," Dina said. "We will make our plans at night."

Dina and the other *madrichim* called all the children together. They told them that if the British would not change their minds<sup>◇</sup>, they had another plan. There were friends of **Na'aleh** in Palestine waiting for them to come. If by night the British did not let them in, their friends would come with small boats in the dark and take them to a shore where there were no soldiers. After they got into Palestine, things would be okay.

Itzik and Perla told Uncle Lev the plan. He did not like it. "It is very dangerous!" Uncle Lev said. "It is winter, the wind is strong and the waves<sup>◇</sup> are high. It is cloudy and dark and it is not safe for the little boats to sail on the sea with so many children. I think that you must come with me to Siam! Even if you get safely onto land, when the British will find these children, they will put you all in prison!"



◇ bit her lips – נִשְׁכָּה אֶת שִׁפְטֶיהָ

◇ change their minds – שִׁנְּנוּ אֶת דְּעֵתָם

◇ waves – גַּלִּים

As the sun was going down, a British boat came again. A different officer was on the boat now. His face was red and he looked very angry when he spoke to the captain on the radio.

"Why don't you leave?" he shouted to the captain. "We will not let anyone from this ship come onto the land. Only people with special papers can come into Palestine! Go away!"

There was nothing to do about it. The *madrichim* knew that now they must wait for their friends on land to come help them at night. They hoped there wouldn't be any problems.

Perla came to speak to Dina.

"Dina," she said. "My uncle is afraid of your plan. He says that it is dangerous. So Itzik and I decided to continue with him to Siam. Of course we will take Rivka with us."

Dina was surprised. "I understand that you want to be safe with your uncle. You can do what you like. But I don't think that you should take Rivka! We took her with us so that we could bring her into *Eretz Yisrael*, not send her to the Far East! I think that Rivka must come with us!"

Perla's face turned white. She loved Rivka very much and did not want anything to happen to her. "You are wrong!" Perla said. "If you care about Rivka, you should be happy that we want to take her with us! She is only nine years old – you can't take her on your boats at night! She will get sick from cold and fear<sup>◇</sup>! I will not let her go!"

◇ fear – דָּרָר

