

## “HIDDEN MIRACLES”

What is a *nes nistar*, a hidden miracle? According to Nahmanides, these are miracles which are frequent in human life, but we discount them, placing them under the category of coincidence or happenstance. In the Amidah we speak of “miracles which are daily with us” -- these are the hidden miracles.

In one of the first real mystery stories, “The Pulloined Letter,” Edgar Allen Poe has the crucial letter cleverly hidden in plain sight. For not only that which is invisible is hidden. In some circumstances, “hidden” miracles may be precisely those which we can see. Think of a lizard on a leaf: camouflage is a means of hiding by being seen. Camouflage makes the lizard look unremarkable, but its ordinariness is an illusion.

There are two ways of looking at the world, declared Einstein: as if nothing is a miracle, and as if everything is a miracle. Are miracles the common currency of existence? Some will hold out for miracles being only the exceptional, the radical break from normality. Others will say, along with Nachmanides, that, “the foundation of Torah is hidden miracles.” We should not rely on miracles, counsels the Talmud -- but we should not ignore them, either.