

## **The Gates of Tears are Not Closed!**

- How appropriate for Selichot--Teshuvah!! (Uploaded by Doniel Kramer)

A famous mashal of the merchants who were trying to smuggle contraband over the border by putting it into a coffin, and asking the border guard to let the coffin through so that the deceased could be buried with respect in his hometown. The guard, who was otherwise very busy and should have been easily distracted, insisted upon prying open the coffin notwithstanding the claims of its bearers that he would be disgracing the deceased by doing so. He got a few guards together to open the box--and found not a body, but an incredible amount of merchandise packed into a small area. Upon their arrest, the terrified merchants began to sob uncontrollably, and asked the border guard why he had especially insisted on making sure that the box was opened. He replied that it was very simple--he saw no one crying over the deceased, and realized that something was awry. Frankly, he said, I would really rather not have done this--if you would have cried before, you would not be crying now.€ •

(From Hakhel Bulletin)