



*On my way into the old city past Jerusalem's Ministry of Finance I found a gold Longine wrist-watch lying on the side of the road. Inspecting it, I found the clasp broken and deduced the owner to be driving with his left elbow leaning out the window from which the watch landed in the gutter. My father was excited and impressed; he himself had a Longine watch but not of gold. I was not nearly as happy; as far as I was concerned, it was an old man's watch and I suggested that my father keep it for me until I was old and responsible enough to wear and enjoy it. In the meantime, I focused on the watch I was going to get for my bar-mitzva - a standard practice among my peers. I had no doubt what my preference was - I wanted was a large Omega watch, fitted with a tough looking metal section wrist band that looked like a miniature part of a tank. It did not have to be a gold watch; in fact, I rather preferred stainless-steel. Rumor had it that Omega was the watch the astronauts used; in 1971 that was all you needed to know.*

