

לעילוי נשמת ר' שלמה זלמן בן ר' שעיה זצ"ל

HASHEM SAVES
HOUSE FROM FIRE 11



Times of Mashiach

THE SPRING HILL TIMES

Issue 170

Parshas Vayeira

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Hashem

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כל מעשיו!"

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FROM THE EDITOR



When we read the Parsha of the Akeidah we wonder how Avraham Avinu was able to pass this test with flying colors. His loyalty to Hashem was unbreakable.

It's beyond our comprehension to understand the level of His love and fear of Hashem. How did he achieve that?

The truth is the same wonder is upon us too.

How is it possible, in a time when the Yetzer Hara is at his strongest point ever and has never been accessible as he is today... Yet, we withstand the test, time after time, and cling to Hashem?

The Avos and Imahos all look at US and ask the same question:

"How in the world are they able to stay loyal to Hashem?"

We face more distractions and nisyonos in one day than people in previous generations faced their entire lives! In every area! Yet we cling to Hashem!

With all our mistakes, failures, deficiencies, imperfections, blunders and sins we are accomplishing what no other generation has ever accomplished.

Here is a story that I received a couple of weeks ago:

A story from Crown Heights:

My family and I have been working daily to strengthen our Bitachon, reminding ourselves that everything comes from Hashem, down to a leaf falling before us. In this world, we believe there's no such thing as "bad."

One day, a mosquito entered our home. It was biting us, making us uncomfortable and frustrated. Yet, we thanked Hashem for the mosquito, trusting that if we relied on Him, He would take care of it. By bedtime, the mosquito seemed to have vanished, and we believed Hashem had removed it.

That evening, we put our daughter to bed—something that usually goes smoothly—but she wouldn't settle down, no matter how hard we tried. To make matters worse, my wife got another mosquito bite. The night felt like it was slipping away from us.

But we reminded each other that Hashem is in control and that there is no "bad" path. We thanked Hashem for both the restless bedtime and the mosquito, telling Him we relied on Him to make things right.

A few moments later, I spotted the mosquito on the wall and was able to take care of it. Instantly, our daughter settled down, and calmness filled the house.

Thank You, Hashem, for reminding us that You're always in charge and that everything is good!

The most mundane things have become ways for us to cling to Hashem!

One little mosquito became a cheftza shel mitzvah of Emunah in Hashem, Bitachon in Hashem, realizing Hashem's goodness, thanking Hashem and accepting with love what Hashem gives us!

It's a scene that is taking place, at any give time, in many different ways, in thousands of houses all over the world and it's happening to people of all ages, especially young children.

Hashem is filling up every single empty space in our lives!

Ashreinu Ma Tov Chelkeinu!

What an amazing world we live in!

Have a Beautiful Shabbos!

NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE UNITED STATES!



As we go to press, the news has come in that Hashem has appointed Donald J. Trump to be the next president of the United States.

We wish him lots of success and may he be Hashem's faithful messenger to protect Yidden in the USA, Eretz Yisrael and all over the world.

המלוכה והממשלה לחי עולמים!

HASHGACHA PRATIS IN MOUNT KISCO



We live in Mount Kisco, New York. The gas supply to our house comes from a gas tank attached to our house. Every few months we call the company to get a refill.

It was during the three-day Yom Tov and the fires on the gas range went out! We had forgotten to call the company before Yom Tov!

Suddenly there was a knock on the door. Standing there was a driver from the gas company!!!

A neighbor of ours had called to order more gas and by mistake he knocked on our door. My father told the non-Jewish man the problem we had, in a way permitted according to Halacha, and he gave us new gas!

Hashem orchestrated that our neighbor should call. He orchestrated that the driver should be a different driver than the regular one and that he should make the mistake and come to our door all in order we should have hot food for Yom Tov and Shabbos!!

(Heard from a talmid of mine - an 11th Grader at Yeshivas Bais Binyomin)

HASHEM ISH MILCHAMA



I heard this story from my uncle who heard it from a combat medic who it happened to.

Right before Succos, a group of soldiers in the IDF were planning to invade a base in Lebanon. Their tactic was to crawl on the floor to surprise the enemy while in the meantime the Israelis were firing missiles from on top to distract them. They then got closer and started firing shots and the entire base picked up and ran away from them, without turning back and firing a single shot!!!

Everyone saw clearly the Yad of Hashem!!

(A Spring Hill Times Reader)

PARNASAH IS FROM HASHEM!



Baruch Hashem, the last several months my monthly expenses have gone up more than 4000 shekel per month for a chavrusa for my son, therapy for some kids, tutoring for another, etc. During this entire time though my income hadn't changed in suit, I was consistently working on my emuna and bitachon saying to myself that Hashem does and will continue to take full loving care of me and my family.

Last month the company that my wife works for was bought out by a very big company. Despite all the excitement and celebrations that they were making, we were concerned about losing the conditions and frum friendly matzav that we have now - working at home, part time, and flexible hours and vacation, and about the new salary that they would offer.

They scheduled a meeting with my wife to tell her the terms that they already decided on, and not only were the working conditions the same, but her salary will be going up more than 5000 shekels!

Thank You, Hashem, for taking care of all our needs so wonderfully!

(A Spring Hill Times Reader)

MILCHIGE COFFEE



I rarely, almost never, eat fleishigs for lunch. One day, I had a hamburger for lunch. I went to kolel, poured myself a coffee, and out of habit, poured in a few ounces of milk. Totally forgetting that I was fleishige, I put the coffee to my lips to drink.

At that second, (before drinking anything), a boisterous youngster came in from the other room, and heading towards the coffee, announced, "No one's fleishige are they?!!!"

If he hadn't been one of the regular kollel-leit, I'd have been sure he was Eliyahu HaNovi!

(A Spring Hill Times Reader)

MEVATER ON MAFTIR



A precious Jew who is responsible for the aliyos in my shul related the following: Last Shabbos

was my mother's yahrtzeit, and I very much wanted to get maftir, as is the custom, l'ilui nishmasah. That Shabbos another Yid came to the shul, and he had yahrtzeit for his father. He came over and told me about it, so that I would give him maftir.

I told myself that two people could not grab hold of one maftir. I would give in, and my giving in would be l'ilui nishmas my mother a"h. It's worth pointing out that the other person was younger than me, and I, who was giving in, was the man in charge of aliyos and had been devotedly serving the shul for decades.

After davening, I went to a certain shul in Ramat Gan, where I have been giving a shiur for close to forty years. In this shul davening starts later, and now – listen to this: Every Shabbos, as far as I can remember, the Rav of this shul takes maftir. And now, specifically on this Shabbos, the Rav decided that he wanted shelishi, and he

asked to give me the maftir!

That's right – on that very Shabbos, when it was so important to me to get maftir l'ilui nishmas my mother, when I had given in to another person. I gave in, but in Shamayim they hadn't given in on my maftir. I was zocheh to carry out this important minhag and to give my mother in Shamayim double the nachas. This is not a one-time story.

One year on Rosh Hashanah, after I'd already arranged with the gaba'im which aliyah I was to receive, it turned out that another person was sure he was supposed to receive that aliyah. I gave in, and when I got to the shul in Ramat Gan, they gave me exactly the aliyah I had given up.

One never loses out from giving in!

(Hashgacha Pratis Newsletter)



Call in to the Spring Hill Times and leave us your Emuna Bitachon/Hashgacha Pratis or any good news story. 24/6 answering machine

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THE KOACH OF KEEPING SILENT



My daughter, a young girl who is full of life, was playing, when she fell. This happens so many times, and baruch Hashem, just as we fall, we get up; but this time it was different. She fell and ended up in intensive care, and the situation was really unclear. There were problems with her liver function and with her heart, and we needed rachamei Shamayim.

In the meantime, she slept and slept, and we were beside ourselves with fear and worry.

One day, when I came home from the hospital after being with my daughter, I was in so much pain. It was not only her situation and the difficult challenge Hashem had sent her. It was something else. There was someone there who had treated me horribly. He spoke in a condescending tone and yelled at me about my lack of responsibility as a father, as though I was to blame for the situation. He threw an additional few pearls my way and then left me, sighing.

I had to pull myself together in order to travel home. With a heavy heart, I traveled and davened to Hashem to watch over me on the way. And indeed, Hashem sent me a good messenger:

A friend called and asked how I was doing and how my daughter was. He spoke so pleasantly and returned life to my dry bones. I wanted to tell him about what had happened to me, but then I said to myself: It's lashon hara! I bit my lip hard and continued to chat with him. I told myself in my heart: Ribbono shel Olam, You know how hard it is for me to keep my mouth closed now. Please have pity on me and, measure for measure, as I am closing my mouth from speaking lashon hara, please open the mouth of my dear daughter and bring her back to health and to leading a normal life.

When the phone call was over, I felt uplifted. I had been zocheh to withstand the nisayon.

A quarter of an hour later, my wife called me from the hospital. And what did she tell me? Our daughter had burst out crying!

Yes, she woke up and started to cry. It was an open miracle!

Baruch Hashem, after that she underwent a process of rehabilitation that wasn't simple, but today she is healthy.

Such is the power of overcoming an urge to speak and of guarding one's tongue.

(Hashgacha Pratis Newsletter)

HASHEM PAYS THE BILLS

I live in Eretz Yisrael, and before Purim, I wanted to buy the things that we needed for mishloach manos. We calculated how much it would be, and we realized that financially we were



very tight and it would be hard to make such a shopping trip right then.

Then, my husband reminded me that really, it's not our job to make Hashem's calculations. We realized it was the right thing for us to purchase the things that we needed. We weren't doing it in any extreme way. It felt it was the right thing for us to do even though money was tight.

I went shopping, and at the end of our shopping spree, my sister told me that she was going to pay our bill!

That same month, we calculated our rent, and tried to figure out how we should pay it. We expected money to come through from work, but we weren't sure if the money was going to come through on time. We tried working on bitachon and strengthening ourselves. In the end, the salary from work didn't come through. Instead, Hashem sent us a shaliach who wanted to give us a very big baby present. Our baby wasn't so young at the time, but they suddenly decided they wanted to give a baby present!

We also got Purim gelt. After we gave maaser and chomesh it added up to exactly what was needed. Hashem takes care of everything at the right time!

(A Spring Hill Times Reader)

ROYAL CEMENT™

A large concrete mixer truck is shown from a low angle, pouring a thick stream of grey concrete into a deep trench. The truck's rotating drum is visible, and a ladder is attached to its side. The background features a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds and a line of green trees in the distance. The ground around the trench is dirt and sparse grass.

**Cement Yourself to Hashem!
He is the Source of All Blessing!**

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- 4. Shiros V'tish-bachos
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TIME FOR REVIEW

Hear the forecast for Hashem's weather for Monsey, Lakewood, Brooklyn Yerushalayim and London!

Option 3 from Main Menu.



Family Thanks Hashem



The Weiss family received a letter in the mail from the government that they were being terminated from a certain government program. They were very dependent on the money, and it was going to be a big loss for them.

Instead of getting stressed out, they decided to use this opportunity to be michazeik in emunah and bitachon. They said that if Hashem helps them, they were going to call it into The Spring Hill Times.

Baruch Hashem, without doing extra hishtadlus, they stayed on the program, and they did not miss their payment!

Thank You, Hashem!

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Anti Semitism in Illinois on the Decline



According to reports coming out of Chicago, Illinois, there was a non-Jew who put up a sign on his property that read "You don't have to be Jewish to protect the Jews!"

Thank You, Hashem!

Family from Eretz Yisrael Trusts in Hashem



R' Moshe Wienberger, from Yerushalayim Ir Hakodesh, reported that the contract for his lease on his apartment was up, and it was time to renew it. Most landlords go up in rent when renewing a contract, but he and his wife were michazeik in bitachon in Hashem that their landlord

was not going to go up in rent.

They were already thanking Hashem as if it already happened. Every day, his wife was davening for it.

Baruch Hashem, they just spoke to the landlord, and he said that he was not raising the rent!

Vihaboteiach baHashem chesed yisovivenu

.....

Girl from Lakewood Thanks Hashem



Sara, from Lakewood, New Jersey, reported that in the past whenever she went to sleep late for a couple of nights, she would get sick.

She needed to go to sleep late a couple of nights. She said that if Hashem would make her not get sick, she would call it into The Spring Hill Times to thank Him. Baruch Hashem, she did not get sick!

Thank You, Hashem!

Explosions of Love



Hezbollah has sent hundreds of rockets for the last few days all over Northern Eretz Yisrael, and so many of them have not caused any harm! Hashem is watching over his beloved people.

Ahavti eschem amar Hashem.

Umala Haaretz deia es Hashem.



R' Avishai Berkowitz, from Manchester England, was waiting by the tram, and a non-Jewish woman came over to him and asked him for the number to the synagogue, because she wanted to convert to Judaism.

Viyaidu ki atah shimcha Hashem livadecha elyon al kol Haaretz.

Hashem Saves House From Fire

It was right before Shabbos in the Weinberg house, and the children suddenly started scream-



ing, "Fire, fire!" There was a big pile of tissues right near the stove that caught on fire. The fire was going up all the way till the cabinets.

B'hashgacha pratis, there were children old enough in the kitchen that saw it and alerted their parents. Rabbi and Mrs. Weinberg quickly ran to the kitchen.

Mrs. Weinberg grabbed a bottle of water that was nearby and poured it on the fire. Rabbi Weinberg grabbed a pot that was full of eggs and water and poured the entire pot onto the fire, putting it out.

Earlier on, Mrs. Weinberg asked her son to mash the eggs. B'hashgacha pratis, he didn't listen. Had he listened, he probably would have poured out the water, and Rabbi Weinberg would not have been able to pour the pot onto the fire.

Chasdei Hashem ki lo samnu ki lo chalu rachamav.

Hashem Watches Over A Yeshiva Bachur

It was motzei Shabbos, and Avrumy, a bachur learning in a yeshiva in New Jersey was walking back from yeshivah to the dorm. Six non-Jews approached him and asked him for his money. They wanted to mug him.



He said, "Don't you know that Jews don't carry money on them on Saturday?" So, they asked him if he has quick pay. B'hashgacha pratis he had been listening to a shiur earlier on a recorder, and he had the recorder in his pocket. He took it out and showed it to them. He said, This is a basic phone; basic phones don't have quick pay on them."

They let him go free!

Hodu lashem ki tov ki liolum chasdo.

Boy from New Jersey Thanks Hashem.



Dovid from Lakewood NJ was trying to fix his bike, but it was not working. So, he told Hashem he would sing Hakol Yachol, and if He helped him, he would call it in to the Spring Hill Times to thank Him.

Baruch Hashem, he was then able to fix his bike!

Thank You, Hashem.

Woman Trusts in Hashem.



Mrs. Mayer has varicose veins in her legs. It was hurting terribly. She sang Hakol Yachol, and within minutes it disappeared! **Baruch hagever asher yivtach bashem.**

Hashem Is Watching Over Us



It was in the middle of the night, and R' Moshe, a yungerman from Yerushalayim, was deciding with his wife if they should go into their baby's room to take something out. R' Moshe thought it was not necessary. His wife thought it was.

They decided to go in. When they went in, they saw that the bars of the crib were all the way down. The baby was in a big danger of falling out onto the stone floor.

Hashem put it into their minds to go in to save their baby!

Hinei lo yanum vilo yishun shomer Yisroel.

Hashem Loves Our Learning



Moshe Yehuda Kaufman, a nine-year-old boy from Chestnut Ridge, NY was learning on the phone together with his grandfather. They finished learning. Right when Moshe Yehuda hung up the phone, the phone died! **Mashgiach min hachalonos umeitzitz min hacharakim.**

Family from Williamsburg Thanks Hashem



It was Leil Shabbos Kodesh in the Friedman House, from Williamsburg, New York. After benching, one of the little children went to put away the benchers, and by mistake she knocked over the leichter.

Baruch Hashem, it did not fall on her, and Baruch Hashem the leichter did not fall on the table and create a fire!

Hodu LaHashem ki tov ki l'olam chasdo

Bitachon on the Baseball Field



Pinchas Dovid Goldman was together with his friends in the park, and they wanted to play baseball, but it looked like it was going to start raining. The Shabbos before, Pinchas Dovid's married brother came and brought along many issues of The Spring Hill Times.

Pinchas Dovid told his friends, "We're going to have bitachon," and they all sang together the



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song of "Hakol Yachol."

They started the game, and it did not rain! They then took a break and went inside to fill up on water, and it started raining.

When they came back out to play again, the rain stopped.

Pinchas Dovid also had bitachon that he was going to win the game, and his team won!

Baruch Hagever asher yivtach baHashem

.....
Man Davens to Hashem



R' Yitzchok Ahron Shternfeld has an organization called "Uvilechticha Baderech" where people can listen to divrei Torah while they are traveling. He needed to send a whole shipment of CDs and USBs to Lakewood, but he did not have a ride.

He was by the Satmar Rebbe's kever. He davened to Hashem that the first person he should meet after he leaves the kever should be someone who is going to Lakewood.

He finished davening and went to his car, and the first person he met was someone who was going to Lakewood!

Baruch shomea tefilla

.....
Anti-Semitism Is On The De-

cline



Chaim Dov Pruzansky from Mountaindale, New York, reported that a non-Jew came over to him and said, "I'm going to protect you if anyone starts up with you!"

Ahavti eschem amar Hashem.

.....
Hashem Loves Our Learning



Shragi Zeitman, a yungerman living in Eretz Yisrael, does not use the regular electricity on Shabbos. He usually charges a flashlight and that's his light on Leil Shabbos.

One week, he forgot to charge it. It was Leil Shabbos and he wanted to learn from a certain sefer, but there was no light.

Suddenly the flashlight went on, and he was able to learn from the sefer. Right when

he closed his sefer and finished learning, the light went out.

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Hashem's Wonderful & Incredible World

A plant-derived compound, created by Hashem, was shown in a recent study to kill strains of tuberculosis that were resistant to existing therapies. Baruch Hashem!

The compound was found in a plant native to North America, and was not only able to suppress dormant TB bacteria from resurfacing but also didn't damage the gut microbiome.

Tuberculosis is Hashem's second-leading killer of humans from an infectious disease worldwide, and has been developing resistance to many of the antibiotics previously used to treat it.

Caused by a species of bacteria that invades the respiratory system called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, it can also affect the heart, brain, and spinal column.

A new study published in the journal *Anti-inflammatory Nutraceuticals and Chronic Diseases*, found that Hashem's sanguinarine, a derivative of bloodroot, a wildflower found in North America, could combat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MRTB) after being genetically modified to reduce its natural toxicity.

TB is treated with multiple medications over a 6-month period, exposing the human organism to substantial weakening. By contrast, the sanguinarine selectively targeted the bacteria responsible for MRTB, leaving harmless and beneficial bacteria intact.

However, in its natural form, sanguinarine is toxic to human cells, so Dr. Jim Sun, senior author and assistant professor at the University of British Columbia's Department of Microbiology and Immunology, led a team to B'syata D'Shanya, genetically

reduce the toxicity of the phytochemical while increasing its potency as a tuberculosis killer.

This resulted in the creation of 35 new derivatives, two of which—BPD9 and BPD6—showed over 90% inhibition of 8 different forms of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, 3 that were particularly virulent, and 5 that were resistant to existing drugs.

"TB treatment takes six months because the bacteria can 'hibernate' in your lungs until reactivated. Most antibiotics work best against actively growing bacteria, but BPD9 seems to be able to stop dormant bacteria from coming back to life," explained Dr. Sun.

It took just 8 days to significantly reduce the quantity of MRTB and other TB strains in mice treated with BPD9, delighting the research team, who nonetheless say that more work needs to be done to lower the compounds' toxicity and conducting additional tests on drug-resistant strains of TB-causing bacteria.

Thank You, Hashem!!!



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LIVING WITH HASHEM

By Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

Editor's note: Many of these stories are from months ago

Hakol Yachol Apartment



Eli,* a chassan, was looking for an apartment. People told him that there were a hundred people looking for an apartment, and if you find something, you have to grab, you have to run. He saw an apartment that was available, and he had a number to call, but he kept on calling and calling, and nobody picked up.

He said, "One second, let's say Hakol Yachol and remember that it's Hashem in charge." They sang Hakol Yachol, and the next time he called, someone picked up the phone right away! They were able to check out the apartment, and it was perfect. They got the apartment, Baruch Hashem!

The apartment was a steal of a deal, it was everything he was looking for!

Hatava B'Makom Hakpada



R' Schwartz,* a youngerman, said that he went to a certain Rebbe, and his father-in-law was embarrassed that he went to that Rebbe, because he wasn't their Rebbe.

R' Schwartz's father-in-law stopped speaking to him.

R' Schwartz was very upset at his shver for treating him this way. After six months, he asked Rabbi Golombeck what to do. Rabbi Golombeck told him

to give him a present, buy something special for him, a nice card.

R' Schwartz did as Rabbi Golombeck advised, and not only did they become best of friends, but he went away Pesach with his family, and his shver came along with him, and they had a beautiful time!

Spring Hill Times to the Rescue



Mrs. Goldblatt,* a teacher from Lakewood, was waiting for her husband to come back from learning Friday night. He usually returned at 11:00 pm, and it was already 12:00, and he still wasn't home! She was upset and worried, so she decided to read the Spring Hill Times to calm down. She read until 12:45, when her husband finally came home. Baruch Hashem, reading the Spring Hill Times saved her emotional health.

She was able to keep herself busy with stories and positive thinking. It kept her from being scared of the worst and helped her not to get angry at her husband!

Positive Thinking



Mrs. Landau* was walking down the street, and she saw a friend that was single for a long time. Her heart went out to her. She said, "One second, I can picture her walking with a chassan and smiling, happy, with shalom bayis." Mrs. Landau started picturing the

A LIFE WITH BITACHON HOTLINE

By Rabbi Golombeck

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 - 2 Today's STORY of Bitachon
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 - 4 This week's connection of Bitachon to the PARSHAH
 - 5 QUOTE from Sefer "Bitachon Weekly"
 - 6 Summary of Rabbi Yehudah Mandel's Thursday VAAD
 - 7 Today's STORY how Bitachon helped someone through a Nisayon
 - 8 ARCHIVES (proceed as regular: 1 for Yesod/Vort section, 2 for story etc.) Press 8 again for Listening Instructions
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yeshua.

She found out that later on that day, someone redt her friend a shidduch, and now she just became a kallah!



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The Nose

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There is a lot going on with a simple sneeze; there is a sudden intake of air, chest muscles that are contracting and compressing the lungs to prepare to release the air and eyes that seal tightly shut. There is an additional fascinating action that takes place before a sneeze. We have to remember that many of the tiny germs and particles are quite strongly embedded in our noses and are not ready to move so fast. Even a powerful gust of air may not have the ability to dislodge them from where they are stuck. There are tiny microscopic hairs that are constantly moving and beating together to move the mucus from one place to another. It has been discovered that right before a sneeze the tiny hairs beat at a quicker pace than they usually beat. Perhaps this is in order to loosen the mucus and prepare it for the sneeze. When the powerful sneeze comes and clears out the nasal passage it will have a more efficient effect if the contents are loosened before. The movement of these microscopic hairs ensures that the strong wind of the sneeze will overpower the stickiness of the mucus and will accomplish its job to do an immediate cleanup and remove from the nasal passage everything there that has to be removed.

Let's take a closer look at the power that Hashem gave to a sneeze. When we sneeze and air gets shot out of the body, the traveling air can reach the unbelievable speed of 100 miles per hour. That is very fast, can you imagine if we would occasionally receive the ability to run that fast? There is nothing like that in the human body. Even a powerful cough can only reach around a half of that speed. As a result of the great speed and pressure of the sneeze - up to a 100,000 germs and particles get expelled from the nose. It is because there are so many particles and bacteria that have to leave that Hashem gave the sneeze such a powerful force. A cough, which does not have such a large number of things that it has to drive away - was not given the same force. A cough only expels up to 3,000 germs and particles - that is much less than the amount that the sneeze expels.

Just to bring out the wonder of the sneeze, if we were never exposed to it and we heard that there is a tribe in Africa that can suddenly breathe out so many germs from their bodies in one quick movement, everyone would marvel at the phenomena. But like so many of the Niflaos Haborei, we are used to it and take it for granted. Let us pay attention and appreciate this wonderful gift of the sneeze.



HASHEM'S Amazing Universe

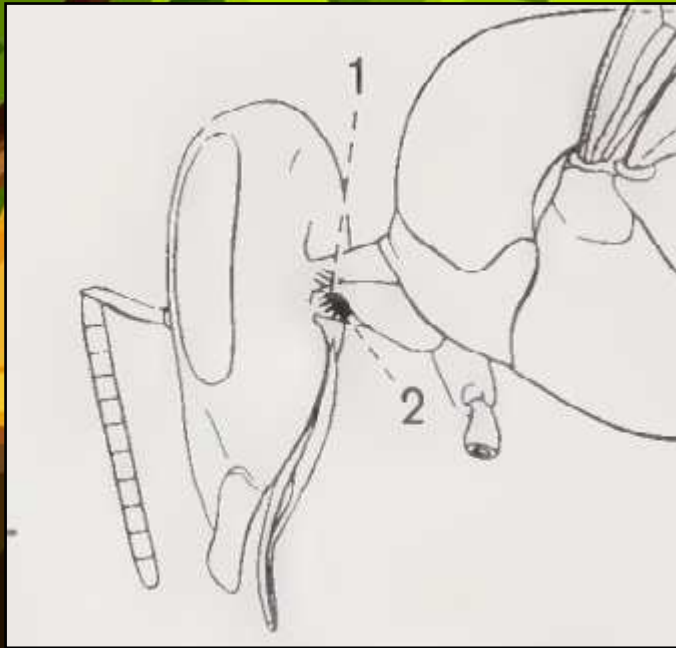
The Amazing Construction of the Honeybees Honeycomb (all done while in the dark!) Article 42

The distances from one cell wall to the other is 5.2 millimeters. The thickness (or should I say thinness) of each cell wall is just 0.073 of one millimeter, (with a tolerance of error of no more than 0.002 millimeter, which is really, really a tiny, tiny margin of error)! To understand these numbers a little better, we must know that one inch is a little over 25 millimeters, and .073 of one millimeter is about .003 of one inch. For a better perspective, an average sheet of copy paper is 0.1 of one millimeter, and the cell wall is .073 of one millimeter. Another way to grasp the thinness of .003 of an inch is to know that it is about the width of a human hair! What truly astounding precision! Economy in the use of building material is thus taken to the utmost limit. Human craftsmen could never do work of this nature without the use of special carpenter tools.

So, the question is, how can the bee shape the cells with such accuracy, without any tools? The answer is that Hashem put in to them built in “tools” that enable the job to get done. Firstly, they have special, very sensitive thick bristle hairs by their neck area (see picture 1 by the neck area). These bristles have tremendous sensitivity, and somehow it enables them to be able to detect the exact line of gravity. Meaning, it can tell what is an exactly flat line and it can tell by how many degrees something is not flat.

So, who needs a ruler when you can have such special built-in machinery!

Picture 1



**FASCINATING?
READ ON!**

This point has been proven experimentally. These bristle hairs were put out of action by coating the bristles with a warm mixture of wax and rosin which hardened on cooling and by which they were completely immobilized. They took bees that were in a building stage of their life cycle and they all immediately gathered together, but nothing happened. They behaved like workmen whose tools have been confiscated: they did not work. Mind you, the gumming up of their neck bristles had clearly not impaired their general well-being, because the flying-out and food gathering activities of the hive were still normal. Nor was there a reduction in their production of wax, but the flakes just dropped to the ground, unused. In one such experiment which observed the bees over a whole months time, no more than three pitiful little cells with irregular walls were produced during the first two weeks. Then came a heat wave. The coating substance started to melt, and the tips of the sensory hairs reappeared. The result was that the bees, within the next four days, after producing some irregular transitional shapes, managed once more to build more or less normal shaped cells.

Now we need to figure out how the bees are able figure out the thickness of the cell walls. How could they keep to the exact thickness of 0.073 millimeters on a consistent basis? As was written in a scientific article, "one might think that the workers had received a thorough training in physical mechanics"! However, be-

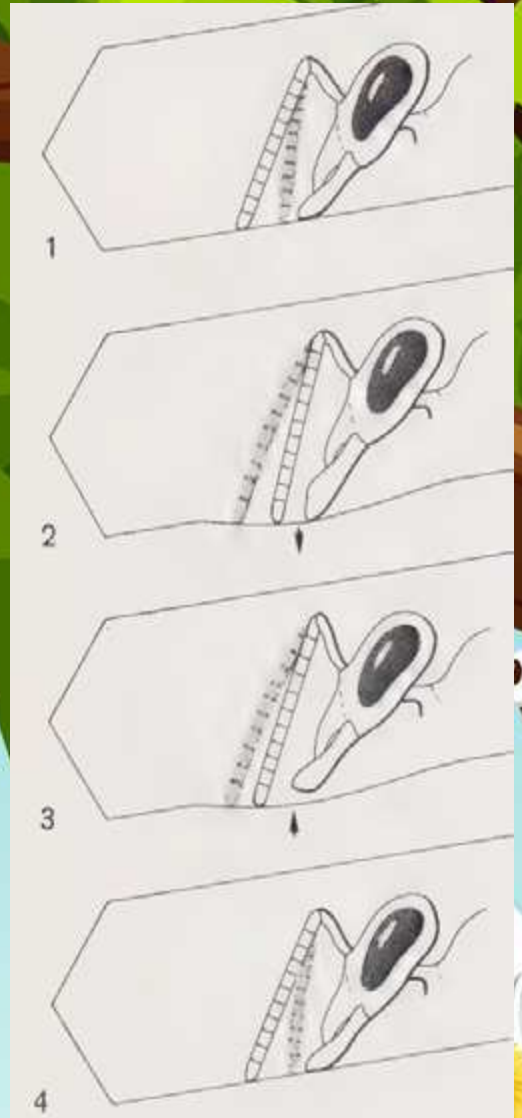
***THIS IS
INCREDIBLE!***

cause of its complexity, only the basic principle involved will be briefly explained here.

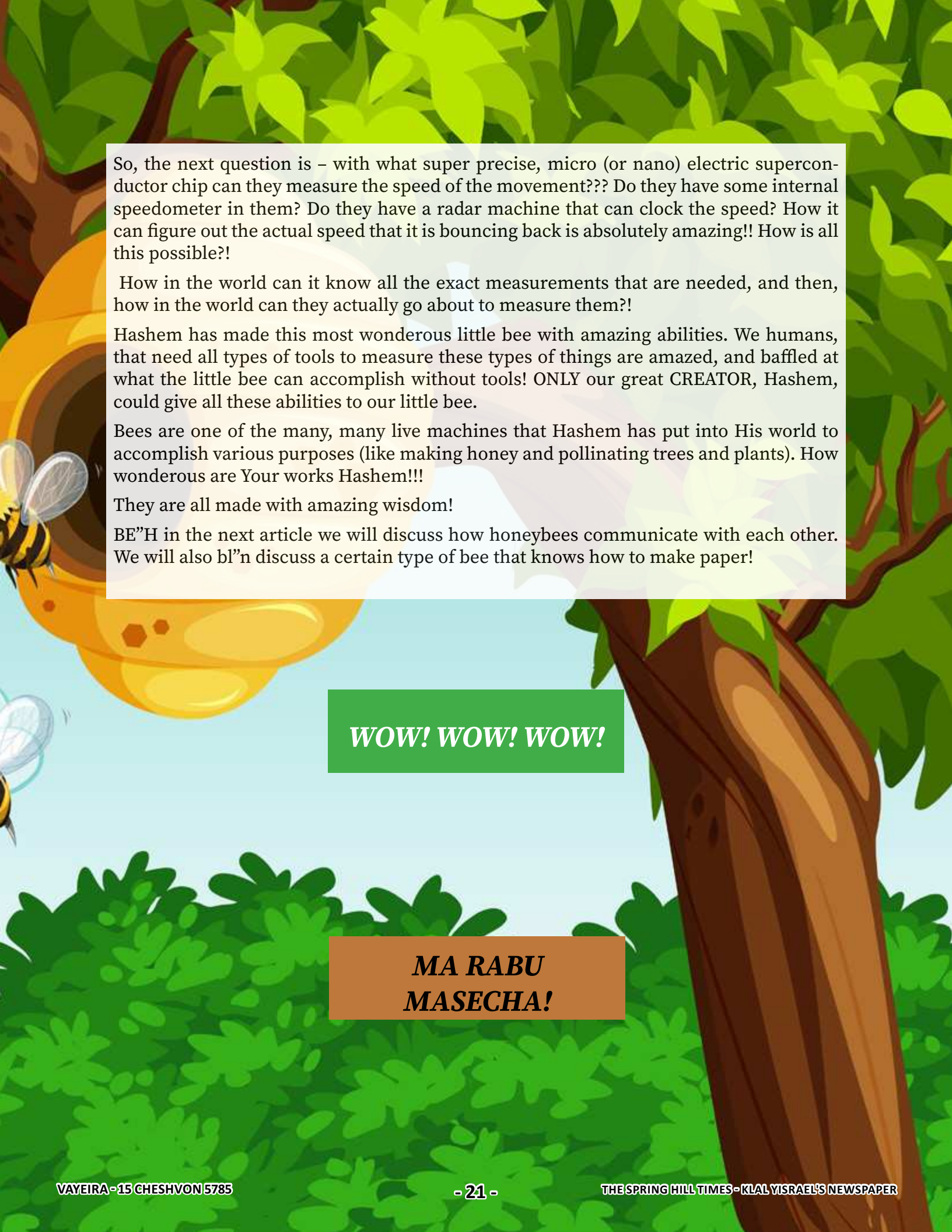
Picture 2

The bee presses her mandibles (mouth part) against the cell wall with a very specific amount of pressure (see figure 1) and thereby it produces a very specific amount of indentation (See figure 2). When she withdraws her mandibles (figure 3), the wall bounces back to its original shape (figure 4). During this process, she is also examining that section of the wall with the tips of her antennae. These tips are endowed with special sensory organs. The antennae are placed onto the wall. Their antennae then registers the speed of the bouncing back movement of the wall. How quickly it will bounce back depends entirely on the thickness of the wall and that “bounce back” registers on the tips of the antennae, thereby giving it a very accurate reading of the thickness of the wall!!!

Let's now analyze this amazing feat. Firstly, they must have a built-in knowledge of EXACTLY how much to push the wall out, and a built-in knowledge of how quickly the wall must bounce back, in order to be able to calculate if it's the correct thickness or not! Where in the world did they learn this from? If, it's the incorrect thickness, it will either be faster or slower than the correct speed! If the wall is too thick, they will shave some wax off and then measure the bounce again. If it's too thin, it will add wax, and then measure it again. It's interesting to note that when the tips of the antennae were experimentally removed, this abruptly put an end to the bee's precision work. The bee still managed the basic architecture of the cells, but the walls got either too thin, or, more often, too thick.



***MINDBOGGLING?
READ SOME MORE!***



So, the next question is – with what super precise, micro (or nano) electric superconductor chip can they measure the speed of the movement??? Do they have some internal speedometer in them? Do they have a radar machine that can clock the speed? How it can figure out the actual speed that it is bouncing back is absolutely amazing!! How is all this possible?!

How in the world can it know all the exact measurements that are needed, and then, how in the world can they actually go about to measure them?!

Hashem has made this most wonderous little bee with amazing abilities. We humans, that need all types of tools to measure these types of things are amazed, and baffled at what the little bee can accomplish without tools! ONLY our great CREATOR, Hashem, could give all these abilities to our little bee.

Bees are one of the many, many live machines that Hashem has put into His world to accomplish various purposes (like making honey and pollinating trees and plants). How wonderous are Your works Hashem!!!

They are all made with amazing wisdom!

BE”H in the next article we will discuss how honeybees communicate with each other. We will also bl”n discuss a certain type of bee that knows how to make paper!

WOW! WOW! WOW!

**MA RABU
MASECHA!**

Hashem Wants You to Enjoy His World

A Guide to Discovering Hashem's Kindness
Everywhere You Turn



By R' Yehuda Schonfeld

from Judaica Press

Continued from Chapter 6: How to Start Enjoying Life

The Secret to Satisfaction

People want new things because they desire satisfaction. But most times, when we purchase something new, our focus will almost immediately shift to some other object in a never-ending cycle of desire, purchase, and disappointment! Is there any point in spending your hard-earned money on something if it will not provide you with the satisfaction you want?

But there is hope: we can train ourselves to enjoy what we already have (and everyone—especially a Yid)—has a lot to enjoy. Through “strength-of-mind training,” a person can develop himself to be able to focus on and enjoy what he presently has.

This concept is central to becoming happy. And since happiness is the purpose of life, it may be one of the most important things to learn!

It also might be the secret to the events that took place many years ago in a beautiful garden in the east of Eden, on the very first day of Adam and Chava's life.

The Garden Revisited

Let us revisit the events of that fateful first day in Gan Eden: Hashem had created a wonderful world and an even more amazing garden. As we saw earlier, Hashem's intention was to bestow happiness on Adam and Chava, and He didn't hold anything back. He gave the first couple everything

they could desire!

Except one thing.

One fruit.

Now, as we said earlier, to enjoy something, a person must be able to focus on it. Adam and Chava would have to focus on their garden to be able to enjoy it. But focus takes effort. The mind naturally wanders away... toward forbidden fruit.

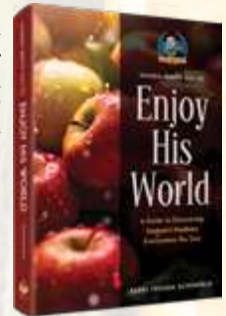
And that is what happened. Instead of paying attention to their paradise, Adam and Chava focused on the one forbidden fruit - and lost everything. Every year, we read again about what happened when Adam and Chava didn't focus on what they had.

Let's ask ourselves. Is this just a story about two people from long ago? But what if the story of Gan Eden is actually a mashal about us - you and me and every person in the world? What if each of us is an “Adam” or a “Chava”?

Perhaps the story of Adam, Chava, and Gan Eden is not just an ancient tale, but a drama that replays itself endlessly. We are all Adam and Chava! And we all live in Gan Eden! Yerushalayim is Gan Eden. Lakewood is Gan Eden. Brooklyn is Gan Eden. London is Gan Eden. Like Gan Eden, all these places are packed with delights, and Hashem gave us all the senses to enjoy them.

But, like the original Gan Eden, there are things that are held back from us. And the test of life is: Will we focus on the good we are given, enjoy our Gan Eden, and

thank Hashem for it? Or will we spend our lives running after forbidden things - the things withheld from us? If someone chooses the second option, only focusing on what he can't have, he will not notice all the good he has. It will simply pass him by, unseen.



But if we pass our test, training ourselves to focus on what we have, and developing the character of positivity and enjoyment in this world, Hashem will grant us in the next world a tremendous bounty, even superior to this amazing world. And we'll be able to enjoy it fully because in we will have learned how to enjoy what we have.

This is the lesson of Gan Eden, the very first lesson a person must know before setting out on the journey of life, which is why it is placed right at the beginning of the Torah.

To be continued...

R' Schonfeld is available to speak publicly on the topic of Enjoying Olam Hazeh. He can be reached for comments and questions at EnjoyHisWorld@gmail.com.



By: Rabbi Eliezer M. Niehaus

This column is part of the "ASHER TO THE YATZAR" initiative. If you would like to receive the monthly leaflet, please email ashertotheyatzar@gmail.com. Please try to say Asher Yatzar from a card or poster as a *zechus* ל"ע"נ my daughter מנחם א"ה בת יבלחט"א אליעזר מנחם אסתר ע"ה

As the glorious lights of Tishrei fade away and we enter the cold winter months, we warm ourselves by the blazing fire that we kindled in our hearts during those special days. The light of these flames will help us navigate the darkness, and utilize these months to their utmost. What is the purpose of the winter months? The Vilna Gaon in *Megilas Esther* (2:12–13) says that the year is divided into two parts: During the winter months, we focus on ridding ourselves of cravings and desires – our *ta'avos*. The second half of the year, the summer months, is when we have the *Yomim Tovim* and the special *mitzvos aseh shehazman grammah*.

That being the case, now that we are beginning the winter, how should we take control of our *ta'avos*? The first step is to realize that it is the animalistic tendencies of our human body that urges us to chase materialistic pleasures. Our *heilegeh Neshama* is not interested in them and if we listen to it, we would realize that true happiness comes from serving Hashem. Yes, we should enjoy this world, but for the purpose of elevating it to spirituality. The greatest way to do so is to thank Hashem for all that He is giving us. In the month of Tishrei we understood clearly why we were sent to this world, and this truth is still in our minds. Let us now actually live that way, and thank Hashem for the greatest present of all – good health.

Let us take for example healthy kidneys. Rav Eliyahu Ristomy writes in his amazing sefer (*Oros Eliyahu*) that once his kidney function dropped majorly and his body was filled with an excess of 12 liters (over 3 gallons) of liquid! Then, miraculously, they started working again, and all the extra fluid drained out naturally. "Every day that everything works properly in our bodies we should make a *seudas Yom Tov*, as there is nothing as precious as being healthy and able to serve Hashem," he writes. Did you even know that such a thing that could happen to a person? In fact, more than 661,000 Americans have kidney failure, and of these, 468,000 are on dialysis. After one year, patients on dialysis have a 20–25 percent mortality rate, with a five-year mortality rate of 68 percent. Close to one hundred thousand people in the United States alone are waiting for a kidney, and more than four million worldwide. And you have two healthy kidneys, not one!

Here is a little bit about the two kidneys that Hashem in His infinite kindness created us with. Each one is approximately the size of a pear and weighs 150 grams (a third of a pound). Each day, they filter approximately 150 quarts of blood and expel the poisonous wastes through the urine. The kidneys contain more than 2 million microscopic filter tubes which, if laid out end to end would be 12 miles long! It is fascinating to note that even though our kidneys filter a tremendous amount of blood, there is no need to replace the filters. That would be necessary with other machines, yet our kidneys function without any parts needing to be replaced! Besides for the filtration of the blood, the kidneys also:

Produce hormones that help control blood pressure, produce red blood cells, keep bones strong and healthy by manufacturing vitamin D, control potassium intake, monitor the amount of sugar and salt in the body, and monitor the amount of fluid in the body. We must be filled with gratitude to Hashem for working kidneys! People who need dialysis can tell you how much pain and suffering they endure.



So, take a moment before you say Asher Yatzar and realize what your kidneys are doing for you. It will be a different beracha!

Rabbi Niehaus is the author of "Oasis: Experience the Paradise of Shabbos" and "HEAVENWORDS: Elevate your Tefillah and Yourself". He is the Rosh Kollel of Kollel Zichron Aharon Yaakov in Kiryat Sefer and is a rebbi in Yeshivas Beis Dovid and Yeshivas Imrei Binah in Yerushalayim.

Living With Appreciation

R' Daniel Shasha

Avraham avinu encouraged many to believe in Hashem, despite the fact that avodah zarah was so rampant in his generation. How was he able to achieve this?

Our parashah tells us, *'he planted an eshel in Be'er Sheva and there he proclaimed the name of Hashem, G-D of the universe' (21:33).*

Chazal (Sotah 10a) explain that he established a resting place for travelers. Some say that an eshel is an inn, others say that it is an orchard, but all agree that it was a place for tired travelers to get some respite.

When these travelers got a chance to rest and enjoy a hearty meal, they wouldn't leave before wanting to thank their generous host. After all, he really went out of his way to provide so many with the provisions they needed. However, Avraham exclaimed 'don't thank me, did you eat from my food? Really you ate from Hashem's food; you need to thank Him!' He taught them how Hashem created the Universe and everything we enjoy, results from Him. In this way they would leave with the heightened awareness that everything is from Hashem and would offer praise and thanks before they left. In this manner, many left their idolatrous practices and instead believed in Hashem.

It should be noted that these guests were eager to express appreciation, and for sure wouldn't have left before saying thank you. However, Avraham was reminding them to look beyond the surface: you think I caused these beautiful trees to grow that you ate its fruit, did I create these animals from whom you partook of its meat etc. There is a Creator Who constantly sustains the world and gives life and sustenance to all beings. All benefit we have in this world result from Him so we must express our appreciation. This is why the verse specifies 'Hashem G-D of the Universe', since Avraham's hospitality helped all the passersby become aware that Hashem is in con-

trol of every aspect of the Universe

This lesson that Avraham taught his guests is really a model for all of us. As Chazal (Berachos 58a) teach "a good guest is one who says, 'look how much effort the host put in taking care of me, how much meat, wine and bread he gave to me. All that trouble that he went to was only for me!' The Maharsha explains that this refers to us. We are all guests in this world and need to strive to be 'good guests', appreciating all the incredible good that Hashem constantly gives us. There is a tendency to take the things we are used to for granted, such as air, food, water etc. However, we need to try and appreciate how all these are gifts from Hashem and there are so many stages that occur to enable us to benefit from them.



For example, it is very easy to go to our local store and purchase a loaf of bread, without thinking too much about it. Yet, when we take a step back and contemplate, we will be mesmerized by all the many factors that went into it. For example, the sun evaporates water from the ocean and then clouds are formed. These clouds move inland and then showers all our fields with rain. This helps cause the seeds of wheat to grow. The wheat is then ground into flour and mixed with water to form dough. It is then baked and eventually reaches the shelves in the store! What's more, all we need to do is to take it off the shelf and pay for it!

As Ben Zomah taught, Adam Harishon had to go through ten stages just until he was in a position to bake, such as plowing, planting and harvesting. Yet we wake up and everything is available! (Berachos 58a) We can learn from Avraham to see beyond the surface and attribute every benefit that we partake from, back to Hashem.

One way we can do this is by trying to have more Kavanah when we recite berachos, as we see in the following story:

One time Rabbi Yisrael Salanter was in a café in Paris with some of his students. He ordered a cup of water, but to his surprise it was an exorbitant sum. After politely asking the waiter why the price was so high, he was told 'by drinking in this café you are not just paying for your beverage, you are paying for the comfortable and attractive furniture, exquisite paintings, the impressive cups, the relaxing music and the spectacular garden.'

Rabbi Salanter told his students that he now gained a true awareness of the ideal way to express our gratitude to Hashem. It is essential that we try and focus on all the details that were involved. For example, when we say shehakol over a cup of water, we are not only thank-

ing Hashem for the water but for all the thousands of factors that went into it's production. Water vapor is evaporated into the air and condensates causing it to come down as rain. This is collected in a reservoir and then sent to factories. The water is than distilled and purified, to be fit for drinking. It is than sent through pipes to many different locations. Then at the ease of opening a tap, we could enjoy delicious clean water wherever we are! This aside from the many factors that resulted in creating the cup/bottle! Each time we say the words shehakol nihyeh bidvaroh, we are expressing our appreciation for the countless factors that went into this food/beverage. How incredible!

The 'Living Appreciation two minute a day gratitude journal', is now available!

Packed with inspiring quotes, short ideas on the Parsha and more. Endorsed by leading Rabbanim. To order, please contact us: livingappreciation@gmail.com

Let Us Thank Hashem for...

Headphones.

These are really ever so useful. We can listen to music and shiurim whilst on the go. Also, many have a built-in microphone making it very easy to make phone calls whilst occupied with other things.



Inspiring Quotes

1

The more we believe that there is no such thing as nature and everything is a miracle, the more we will witness this. (Michtav Me'Eliyahu vol. 1 p. 178)

2

People think that phenomena such as the resurrection of the dead is a miracle; is the sprouting of a seed any less miraculous? (Sifsei Chayim, Moadim vol. 3 p. 29-36)

3

Our sages instituted many blessings of praise, thanks and request so that we will remember Hashem constantly. (Rambam, Hilchos Berachos 1:3)

4

Hashem Yisbarach performs kindnesses for every Jew. We must remember these acts constantly and never forget them. In the merit of this, we will be saved from the attribute of strict justice. (Imrei Emes, Beshalach 592)

Ahava Rabbah

Heart Sharing: Sharing our love with others

I want to express my tremendous thank you to Rabbi Kaufman for making such a beautiful, Hartzik, life changing newspaper. It has helped me in so many ways! I try to recommend it to whomever I can as it brings so much joy and peace! Everyone reading this article and every single Yid in your town should be showered with a rain shower full of Brochos and good. You should all have more Brochos than the amount of leaves on all the hadassim that were used by all the Yidden all over the world this Sukkos!

I was in Hashem's amusement park today. It was glorious! I felt loved by Hashem and I felt excited like a child in a candy shop! It was pure sweet candy to my Neshoma. The trees were all different magnificent colors. One was more gorgeous than the next. It made my heart want to sing and dance. The lake was peaceful with some swans. (See pictures at the end of the article).

Ahava Rabba! Pumping people up

An amazing way to pump people up is to tell someone how you enjoyed their words of Chizuk, Dvar Torah or meal. You can tell the Rebbetzin how the Rabbi's speech brightened your whole day. You can write letters to people outlining how being at their Yom Tov meal was a highlight for you.

Story:

A ripple spreads!

Thank you so much to everyone who called me and left me a message to tell me what the articles meant for them. It gives me such a Chizuk and it's unbelievable. It also made me realize the power of giving someone feedback.

I have not been available to write so many articles

over the last few months. After the Sukkos article, I got feedback from someone who told me how much he enjoys the articles and tries practicing expansion. This made me feel so great inside. It gave me such joy that people are actually doing expansion from the articles.

I was in such a pumped mood that I started reaching out to other people to give them thanks for articles they write or things they say.

It also gave me a boost of strength to write this article. And now I'm sharing this idea with all of you, so you can pass it forward and make someone's day. One text. One word. One phone call has a huge ripple effect that you can't even imagine how much!

There was another person who took time to give me to give feedback. Then I was at shul watching a stunning Simchas Bais Hashoava and I met her and it was wonderful to meet the person who gave me the feedback.

I am sharing these stories so we can all appreciate the power of someone giving positive feedback. We can do this with so many people.

I love to try to give people support and Chizuk. As an aside: Doing for others makes us feel so good ourselves and fills our own emotional bank account!

Idea: It's so easy to share love with other people.

- Write a thank you letter in a creative way expressing kindness to someone you ate a meal at.

- I was at my friend for the second days of Sukkos and her in-laws were there as well. I asked her for their address and I wrote a letter telling them how spending time with them greatly enhanced

the beautiful Yom Tov.

- You can call the Rebbetzin of your Shul to tell her how much you enjoyed the Simchas Torah dancing at her Shul.
- Tell a rabbi how his speech changed you.
- Write to a Spring Hill Times author how their article changed you.
- Call a Rebbetzin just to wish her a good Shabbos.
- Call or text the wife of a person you get Chizuk from and tell them how much their husband is doing for you.
- Call a Rabbi or teacher from the past and pump them up to no end telling them what a positive impact they had on you. A few years ago, I was writing an article on the power of saying YES to a child. There are so many times we can say the word, “yes”, “sure”, “of course”, or “100%” to those around us. *I shared in the article that when I was in second grade, I raised my hand and I asked my teacher if I can write a poem for the class poetry book. And my teacher said “YES”. That Yes pumped me up and I continued to write poems, songs, articles, school programs (a book!) until today. I ended the article by saying you never know the power of just one “yes” and how you can pump someone up. After I wrote the article, I called my second-grade teacher and shared with her what I wrote. She had tears as she said she was just thinking about how maybe she would stop teaching. But this phone call gave her renewed Chizuk to continue changing one life at a time.*

We have so many opportunities to pump people up and change lives. And just a friendly reminder that adults need pumping up just as children and teens need pumping up. Who will you be Mechazek today with just one kind word?

Song:

Mr. Safdieh shared: It says Hodu L’Hashem Ki Tov Ki Liolum Chasdo: When we call out and thank Hashem then Ki Liolum Chasdo – Hashem’s kind-

ness is forever. We need to think and thank as Rabbi Miller zt”l taught us: think about all the Chasodim and take time to thank Hashem for them. How can we ever repay Hashem for our spleen, spine, heart, left knee... right knee. Hashem is our farther regardless if I deserve or don’t deserve, Hashem wants to give us. Rabbi Miller zt”l said feeling gratitude and feeling I’m a recipient of Hashem is how we “give back”. Hashem just gives and gives and gives. It’s so important to take a few minutes to notice all the different small things and think and thank, think and thank.

On Rosh Hashana I was singing this song:

Tune: Seuh Shaurim Rashachem

Hashem you are my best friend,

And I love you so much,

Hashem Tzevuos Ashrei Adom-

Botach Buch!

Hashem I’m relying on You,

You are my father and my king -

There is no one but You

Thank you for everything!!!

As an adult, I try to sing this song all the time! I try to change the motions or dance steps as I sing this song. This creates a function called expansion. When we add change to something while we are singing, it helps solidify the feelings associated with it. The more times we sing and add a small change, the more neural pathways we have connected to what we are doing. This helps it become more integrated into our beings.

Feeling Hashem’s Love!

I get so much Chizuk from calling A life With Bitochon when Rabbi Golumbeck speaks about how Bitochon helped someone through a Nisoyon (#7 on A life With Bitochon Hotline). I had someone who kept calling me from overseas about something and it was starting to disturb me. Then I stopped and realized one second this is saving me

from trips to the Hospital. I therefore become so joyous and started dancing and singing and thanking Hashem for that person every time they called me. My heart truly now felt gratitude I felt so loved, cared for, and protected by my loving caring father and best friend Hashem and I thank Hashem for it.

We say in Ani Maamin: Hu Livado Usa Vioseh Viya-asah Lchaol Hamaasim. It doesn't say Hashem C"V together with the Shadchon, doctor, Bank, or agent. It says Hashem alone helps all creations.

There is an app called Uber where one can get a ride one can track how far the car is and when it will arrive. We all have to be waiting knowing the Yeshuah will come. Who can track HOW MANY MILLIONS OF CHASODIM, HASHEM is doing for use very second. We can open our eyes to read this article, we can breathe, we can walk and talk and hear. APP can stand for

A: Alef is Hashem

P: Protects

P: Provides.

We have the most reliable "driver" the creator of all: Hashem. Hashem is the driving force behind every single thing. If one needs shidduchim, Parnasa health- just call out to the real and only APP HASHEM because HU Livado can do it all!

One evening a few months ago I was on my way back from Miami to New Jersey and my plane deplaned after takeoff – at the last second because of a broken part. I really had to get back to NJ for a meeting that was scheduled the next morning. Once we got off the plane, I went to a counter and explained the situation but they said "sorry there is no one who can help you at all and there are no more flights until tomorrow night". I asked them if I can board the plane to Boston that I noticed was leaving shortly (and then I would get a ride to New Jersey). They said "sorry that plane is ready for take-off and no one can board anymore". I asked to speak to someone else and they just said "sorry". Then, I decided I am not even seeing any people in front of me as it's ONLY Hashem in front of me. I said Hakol Yochol and asked an agent if I can go on the plane to

Boston and she said sure. However, the system didn't allow them to add me to that plane since that flight was about to take off. Three people starting working to get me on the flight that was about to take off. And I was just thinking it's not the people it's only Hashem. ONLY Hashem. Finally, they gave me a ticket. I ran to the gate that was a little further down and once again thought it's not them just Hashem. They let me on and as I sat down to catch my breath, the plane took off. Soon after a stewardess came over to ask what happened and why I came on so late. I explained that I was on a plane to New Jersey that got deplaned and that I needed to get back for a meeting so I am going to Boston. And I will be getting a ride from will Boston to New Jersey. She turned to me and said "that's impossible. You could not have left that plane and ten minutes later be on this plane that was about to take off!!!"

Nothing is impossible for Hashem. If you need something just turn to Him like a child to a father and say "you are my father this is what I need and I know You and only You Hashem can give it to me!"

- In the story above before we deplaned, I was concerned because as we started to take off there were really strange sounds on the plane and lights started flashing. We came right back down the runway and they were working for a while deciding if they would fix the issue and send us back off or deplane us. I was in touch with Rabbi Golumbeck and I asked him "should I daven to just take off and the plane would be perfect or should I daven to deplane. He said what will make you happier and calmer at this point? I said at this point the plane really didn't seem safe so I would rather deplane. So, I had Bitochon we would deplane within a few minutes and we did.

- Over Sukkos there was a 1.5 year who decided she did not want to eat. I sat her on my lap and sang songs of how she is the best and Hashem loves her. I had in mind only Hashem can make her eat. I put food on the spoon and then just put the spoon down knowing there was no pressure. I would just ask Hashem to help. She ate the cake, meat and cucumbers with no problem.

People call me regarding children that are "picky

right now with what they eat”- I rely on Hashem to help them eat more foods. I was thinking about how one of the things we do with food is a Mashal to other things. One of the things we do for the puppet show Hishtadlus (which is not what makes it work at all- it's only Hashem) is that we take all the pressure off the child. I allow the child to have ice cream or cake the same time as their meal -they don't have to earn the ice cream by eating other foods first- meaning we make eating Geshmak- the act of the meal is super fun- eating is about cake and ice cream and chicken and string beans. It's all part of the fun experience of eating. I was thinking in Yidishkeit Hashem wants us to feel joy and “eat cake and ice cream” (in a safe healthy way), go on trips to the park and ocean, and laugh and have a good time at the same time as whatever other challenges are happening, Hashem wants us to enjoy life and have zero pressure because He is right by our side at all times 24/7/365 and he is our loving, caring Father and best friend. Of course, there are Torah guidelines and limits. And limits create safety and health in a person. In this point we are focusing on finding joy no matter what else is happening.

I took these pictures on my walk! It's in Hashem's amusement park that I went to on Chol Hamoed. Can you imagine yourself dancing in the colorful leaves while singing and thanking Hashem! Now can you dance and sing to Hashem wherever you are? Creating a game of finding the beauty in Hashem's gorgeous world helps us solidify the experience, thus making it a real part of us.

Disclaimer: All information is for educational purposes only. For any medical or mental health advice contact a healthcare professional. Names and identifying details have been changed.

Thank you to my parents and family for always pumping me up and being there for me! Thank you, Hashem, for showering me with daily love and kindness in millions of ways. © 2024 Dr. CFY Ph. D LCSW Text/call 732-534-2250 to give feedback on Ahavah Rabbah.



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Did you know that Hashem made this world to enjoy? Hashem made olam hazeh for us to have pleasure. Do you know that the amount of enjoyment and pleasure that Hashem gave us nowadays is more than people in earlier generations could ever imagine? Do you know that nowadays we have more than what kings had in the olden days? If you would tell people in the earlier generations what we have nowadays, they wouldn't even believe of such inventions.

By: Rabbi Zevy Golombeck



For example, if you would tell somebody in the olden days that they're going to invent a machine that allows you to talk to someone else on the other side of the world, and the person would be able to hear you and see you without screaming, and he would hear you right away, the man wouldn't believe you.

And if you would tell somebody in the olden days that you can turn on a faucet and get hot water, boiling water, without even having to go outside to a well and without having to heat up the water, they wouldn't believe you either. In the olden days they had to heat up water. And the list goes on and on. What we have in our small little house, an oven, a stove, a washing machine, a dryer... kings couldn't even believe of such inventions. What? You just put the clothes in a machine and it cleans the clothing for you? It's unbelievable.

Now do you know that after we have everything in the world, still people are walking around not happy? Do you know why? Because if you look over your shoulder and see what other people have and you see people have more than you, you will never be able to enjoy what you have and that is what's robbing us of our enjoyment. You know what's robbing us? It's because we are looking over our shoulder and looking at what someone else has. It's called kinah. So Chazal say when a person has jealousy, motziim es haadam min haolam. What does it mean motziim es haadam min haolam? It means you can't enjoy this world. So what should you do if you want to enjoy this world? If you're busy looking over your shoulder?

The answer is very simple. Don't look over your shoulder! Look at what you have and realize that what you have is more than anything they had in the olden days. Focus on what you have and realize that what you have is perfect for you and anything else would be poison for you. That is the recipe to live the happiest life, a life that you could enjoy such pleasure, and be able to enjoy every second of olam hazeh.

Gold Mines

Based on the teachings of Rav Yehudah Mandel

By: R' Baruch Rosenstock



or you need to acquire all those things you desire to finally feel good. The pasuk says it's really super close to you, as the pasuk continues בפֿיך; it's in your mouth, בלבבך; it's in your thoughts. You want to become a happy person, use your mouth and speak positive, use your brain and think positive. Say with your mouth how good you feel, how great you are, how thankful you are or anything in the positive direction. You may have to put in work and be ahead of the game and start the positive thought process before the negative one could get off the ground.

This pasuk also reminds me that connecting with Hashem is not reserved just for shul, when you're davening with your siddur. Hashem is really מאד - הדבר - אליך - קרוב, Hashem is much more accessible and available than we think. When you have an issue and you're looking for an address, Hashem is an address to reach out to, and has tricks that none of your contacts have.

Whenever I think of what it takes to become a happy person it reminds me of the pesukim in Chumush, - היא - היא - לא מעבר - לים - היא וכו' - מאד כי - קרוב - אליך - הדבר מאד

People think happiness is very far away, it's in the heavens, it's overseas and you have to do all types of sophisticated techniques to help yourself



A yungerman heard about my many stories about changing people's lives by seeing good in them. He was skeptical and he said, "This happens maybe by other people but by me I can't imagine such total magic." Recently, his teenage son acted up and started terrorizing the whole family with plenty of anger and *חוצפה* against

his parents.

Part II

All he did was hurt others all day long. I told the yungerman to work on seeing only good in him etc. He spent 3 minutes a day with his wife discussing "how good" and how "nice" his son was. They were constantly *דן* him *לכף זכות* since all his life he had learning disabilities and ADHD, etc. After one week, he became a new person *ממש*.

Part III

It was unbelievable how this same boy suddenly became a big *אריך דרך* loaded with *eidelkeit* and refined *middos*! The parents were *ממש* on a high and couldn't believe the *נסי נסים* that their tiny *עבודה* in *עין טובה* caused.

A person who is *רם*

הפ התפעלות (high) (אברם)

רש"י says that the fact that the 4 kings were stronger than 5 kings didn't stop him from going to war against them. This is not just an isolated instance of *א"א's* great *בטחון*. It is a sample of the entire fearless *ראש המאמינים*! He wasn't *נפתעל* from adversity like the *אנשי מדות* who were so impressed with *אנשי מדות*. For good reason did the *רמב"ן* say that *לבו כלב הארי* We need to learn from him!

חדש חשון

I've been asked by many people about how to hold onto *תשרי* and what's the main *חשון* R' A. Miller says that in *חשון* you can catch up with lots of *ת"ת* which was missing during *תשרי*. The *רמ"א* says that if you don't believe that *יום כיפור* is *יום מכפר* then *ח"ו* you don't have a *כפרה*.

Part II

The more you value *יום כיפור* and *סוכות* (which give you a *שמירה* for a whole year) and *הוש"ר* etc. the more you are actually *זוכה*. This requires work to try to recall all those sweet memories of *תשרי*. All the successes (*תפלה בכונה וכדומה*) and all those failures (*תפלה בלי* *כונה וכדומה*).

Part III

The *שמחה של* says that if you have *ארחות צדיקים* *של* then you get 1,000 times more *שכר*! Also, *ימי חנוכה* are approaching and it's very *כדאי* to start getting into

an extreme "thank-you" mode! The more you thank the more *טובות וישועות* in your life.

Part IV

True story

A yid from NY has been suffering for many, many years and is always bedridden despite his positive outlook. He is a *צ"ע* much loved and admired by all. I always suspected a *מדה* issue that's causing all this, and I was finally told by his close friends that he thinks that he's a zero in *רוחניות*.

Part V

This is enough to cause a true physical condition since the body doesn't feel comfortable with a mind that's always degrading himself, albeit subconsciously. People think that *ויגבה לכו* is just self esteem which every *גוי* gets involved with. They don't realize what a *מצוה רבה* it is, and *הקב"ה* has *נחת* from people who appreciate the *מעלות* He gave them.

אם נא- מצאתי חן- בעיניך- אל נא- תעבור- מעל עבדיך

It is awe inspiring how a great and famous person like *אברהם אבינו* should have such amazing respect for what appeared to be 3 low life *זרה* *עובדי עבודה זרה*! We can suggest *בס"ד* because just like his very name means greatness *אב* so did he respect all humans since we are all *אברהם*! *אברהם* was the first person who found *הקב"ה* but he also found himself!

Part II

All this took place while he had just had a *ברית* which is a most remarkable *מצוה* as if to say *הקב"ה* creation of man is lacking and the human has to fix *גדול הכנסת אורחים יותר מהקבלת פני* what *הקב"ה* left out! *כביכול* was said about this incident! When he just had a *ברית* did he get the message that *הקב"ה* wants the human to *כביכול* have something over him!

Part III

This is the opposite of *דור המבול* which were *נכשל* in *גול ועריות* i.e. not being serious about the rights of a human and making cheap the whole *בריאה* and the holiness of mankind. At the end of our long *גלות* we need extra work to appreciate ourselves and our true greatness.

Part IV

והוכיח

אברהם את- אבימלך

Here we have *א"א* giving *תוכחה* to a powerful king without *התפעלות*. The true self esteem person can be extreme in recognizing his and other people's *גדלות* and he is also tough and unafraid of even the mightiest. (*כ"כ* *וירק את- חניכיו*)

Part V

And do you know why *א"א* went all out for the wicked *סדום*? He was fighting for the honor of a *מלכה* which *א"א* had taught him!

A LIFE WITH BITACHON ON THE PARSHA

THE TRUE NISAYON OF THE AKEIDA

(yesoid #501)

In this week's Parsha, Hashem commands Avrohom Avinu, "Take your beloved son Yitzchok, and sacrifice him to Me." Chazal count this as the 10th and greatest nisayon of Avrohom Avinu.

The Chasam Sofer asks, why is this nisayon considered so great that it goes down as the greatest nisayon? Didn't Hashem tell him clearly what he has to do? Of course Avrohom would do it? Yes, it is a challenge, but to consider this 'the' nisayon? What's the Pshat?

Reb Dovid Bleicher Zt"l writes a beautiful explanation in the name of his Rebbi the Alter of Novardik zy"a. Rashi brings down from Chazal that the Yetzer Hara was Mekatreig on Avrohom Avinu and he said to the Ribono Shel Oilam, "Look at Avrohom Avinu! He didn't bring any karbanos to You even though he made so many seudos for himself. How could that be? Your beloved Avrohom Avinu didn't bring You any korbonos? Why are You so in awe of him? How great can he be already if he didn't do this even once?"

Hashem answered back "You say Avrohom Avinu shouldn't be so beloved because he hasn't brought Me any karbonos? Well, I will show you how devoted he is! I will tell him to bring his own son Yitzchok as a karban and he will gladly do it!"

So, it comes out that the cause of the Akeida was because Avrohom Avinu never brought a karban. This caused him to face this great challenge.

Therefore, says the Alter, the nisayon of Avrohom Avinu was that he could have been full of terrible regret and grief and bitterly said to himself the entire way, "Oy! Look what kind of trouble I got myself into! If only I would have brought karbanos, I could have avoided this whole ordeal. Now I am stuck with bringing Yitzchok to the Akeida and I'm going to lose my beloved son! Oish! What did I do to myself? I am to be blamed for this whole tumult and crisis!"

But no! Instead of this, Avrohom went with the attitude of, "What was, was! This is what Hashem wants from me right now. It is my current Mitzva that I must focus on doing b'shleimus and I am going to do it with tremendous joy! I won't make any cheshbonos of what could have been." With that Avrohom Avinu went to the Akeida with an incredible simcha shel mitzva and without any regrets. He did it wholeheartedly.

This was the great nisayon of the Akeida and Avrohom Avinu passed it with flying colors.

Says the Alter of Novardik, that we need to learn from this, that a person should never say "If only I would have, should have and could have done things differently, then I wouldn't be stuck in my situation." No! Never harp on the past. Instead, move forward and say "Whatever happened up until now is what Hashem wanted. All results and outcomes are from Hashem. My job is to learn from my mistakes for the future. But never to be full of grief about my past in a way that brings out negativity."

The following message came in:

We are a couple that had shalom bayis issues for many years. Recently we started listening to a life with Bitachon. We internalized that everything that happens is because Hashem wants it to happen, and there is no one else to blame. Wherever a person finds himself is perfect. We took upon ourselves a kabala that we will never ever say we should have, would have or could have. We call it nivul peh! With this we never blame each other for anything that happened no matter whose fault it was and how how negatively it affected us. We only look in one direction: Forward!

Our Shalom Bayis has sky rocketed since then and is now better than ever before!

The biggest trap of the Yetzer Hara is to make us depressed about our past! But it's chazer treif!

A mother called me up feeling heartbroken. Her daughter goes to a school that has parallel classes and for some reason she felt like it would be better for her daughter to switch over to the other class. After she was transferred this mother realized that it was a terrible mistake for several reasons. Her daughter misses all her friends from her old class and the teacher in the new class wasn't a good fit. The school refused to switch her back. The mother felt terrible that she caused her daughter such harm and she doesn't know what to do with herself. I told her, "Your problem is, that you think you are in control of what happens in this world. But no! That is the furthest thing from the truth! Because Hashem runs the world and He is the One that put her in the other class. So obviously that is what is best for her. Yes, you're mechuyav to use your seichel and make the best decision, but the outcome and end result is exactly what Hashem wanted and it would have happened anyway. You cant have an affect on any human being!"

Internalizing the lesson:

Next time something bad happens or I confront a challenge and it seems like it was my very own fault, I will realize that this is my personal nisayon of akeidas Yitzchok. I will be mekabeil the task at hand and the situation I find myself in with Simcha, and not look back. I will just do the mission at hand with a smile, knowing that this is what Hashem wants from me now. My cheshbon hanefesh will only focus on how to improve for the future and I won't harp on the past. Would have and could have will not be in my dictionary.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SHABBOS!

A BURST OF INSPIRATION

With Rabbi Label Lam



Still Doing a World of Good

And HASHEM said, "Shall I conceal from Avraham what I am doing? And Avraham will become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the world will be blessed in him. For I have known him because he commands his sons and his household after him, that they should keep the way of HASHEM to perform righteousness and justice, in order that HASHEM bring upon Avraham that which He spoke concerning him." (Breishis 18:17-19)

And Sarah said, "G-d has made joy for me; whoever hears will rejoice over me." And she said, "Who would have said to Avraham that Sarah would nurse children, for I have borne a son to his old age!" (Breishis 21:6-7)



Sarah would nurse children: Why is "children" in the plural? On the day of the feast, the princesses brought their children with them, and she nursed them, for they were saying, "Sarah did not give birth, but brought in a foundling from the street."

- Rashi

Why did HASHEM need to tell Avraham about the destruction of Sodom in advance? The verse spells out the reason. It is somewhat clear but there are some important questions here. Avraham is a "partner" with HASHEM and he will instruct future generations in the ways of HASHEM. It needs to be clear to Avraham, so he could educate future generations that the elimination of Sodom was not even slightly unjust. That's the simple approach.

However, as a result of Avraham's hearing about the impending doom he launches into a lengthy prayer and dialogue with HASHEM, pleading his case for saving people of those condemned cities. Ultimately, he is unsuccessful and his prayer seems to be for no benefit. Why would HASHEM invite Avraham to engage in an exercise in futility like praying for a hopeless situation?! Is that how one deals with a trusted "partner"?

I heard an answer to this question, years back. No prayer goes unanswered. It was because Avraham would have righteous progeny that would be going in the ways of HASHEM. Sure, HASHEM prompted him to Daven but his prayers did not go for naught. They would be necessary to protect and preserve future generations in ways that we could never know. This may help account for the longevity and incredible durability of the Jewish People.

Similarly, we find that Sarah was barren and when she finally had a child, Yizchok, she declared, "Who would have said to Avraham that Sarah would nurse children..." That's peculiar! Sarah had only one child. Why does the Torah say "children", plural. Rashi explains that people from all over came to verify that Sarah had really given birth and so they brought their children to nurse by Sarah.

Here's another approach! Rashi explains why HASHEM made it so that the great mothers of the Jewish People were initially barren. He says that, "HASHEM desires the Tefillos of Tzadikim". What does that mean? From the beginning of creation, we find that HASHEM did not bring rain until there was a man to pray for and appreciate it. Certain life ingredients are not delivered unless there is a prior prayer, a requesting, entreating agent!

The Talmud tells us that HASHEM says about Chanina Ben Dosa, "Chanina My son, he survives on a handful of carobs, from week to week and yet the whole world is sustained through his prayers". That means that the poorest man who is praying for survival is actually feeding the world with his Tefillos. Amazing!

Sarah was praying for a child and the world was being populated with "children" due to the powerful appeal of her prayers. She is responsible for the blessing of children in the world, and her prayers were not just the people of her time but for future generations as well.

No prayer is lost! Every prayer is answered. Not long ago, we lost a very dear friend. A world of Tehillim and Tefillos were launched to forestall what was happening but it happened anyway. I am sure many were disappointed thinking their prayers were not answered. At the Shiva I felt comfortable enough to share with the family and those who had organized the recitation of all those Tehillim, that the Niftar had lived a generous and selfless life and not one of those prayers was lost. They are being delivered, in his merit, to special places at critical times and they're still doing a world of good!

Good Shabbos!

Chizuk Corner

Rabbi Y. Y. Friedman

During these weeks we read the Parshiyos that introduce us to our incredible forefather Avraham Avinu.

The truth is that when we study the life of Avraham Avinu, we cannot help but being awed by all the chesed, love and the mesiras nefesh that he displayed.

We are told by the chachamim that we are supposed to emulate the ways of our Avos; we are supposed to follow their footsteps. In fact, this is one of the reasons why the Torah highlights these stories, so that we can learn from them.

The obvious question is that the more we study the parshiyos, the more we recognize how our forefathers were tremendous giants beyond our comprehension. Their actions seem to be out of our reach. We may feel like small ants.

Example of their greatness are the legendary hachnasas orchim of Avraham – how he treated every person who walked through his door as a king, with love and devotion.

What about the legendary Akeidas Yitzchok?! It is mind-boggling and astonishing how Avraham went to shecht his only son, whom he waited for, for so many years, and despite that, did it with such alacrity and love for Hashem.

So, how can we relate to these actions; how can we emulate them when we feel so small compared to them?

So, let me explain with a personal story and a mashal, so we can get an appreciation for our avoda of going in the ways of our forefathers.

This past Sukkos, I spent yom tov with my parents. On the first day of yom tov, my father approached me and told me that he was blown away by the bracha that my five-year-old child said. My father was floored how my son said his bracha so slowly and clearly.

Obviously, like all fathers I blushed and took lots of pride and nachas from this compliment.

However, truthfully speaking I do put an avoda into my brachos. I say them out loud and try to concentrate on my brachos. I actually have a five

step kavana program for the brachos that I make throughout the day, and I will share it with you. Here goes.

1. Baruch - Hashem is the source of all the bracha in our life, and in the world. According to Reb Avigdor Miller the word baruch comes from the word berech which is to bow and humble ourselves. Perhaps we can merge the two explanations, that when we recognize that Hashem is the source of all our blessings, then we become humbled.

2. Ata - When we say Ata, we internalize that we are talking directly to Hashem, and Hashem is close by, listening to every word. If you think about it, you will be filled with joy. What an awesome zechus!

3. Hashem Elokeinu - I try to think the perush of the names of Hashem (brought down in Halacha that He is the Master of all and the All Powerful). The truth is that when we say Elokeinu, our spirits should soar, as we are stating that He is ours.

4. Melech Haolam - Hashem is the King of the world, and He is my King as well. At this point we are doing Malchiyos – similar to Rosh Hashanah, which is huge.

5. Conclusion of Bracha - At this point we get busy thanking and praising Hashem for the wonderful fruits, vegetables or any other pleasure that we are about to experience. This also includes brachos on mitzvos as well.

Getting back to our story, one may wonder why I became so excited over my five year old's Bracha. After all, it doesn't compare to the brachos that adults make?

The obvious answer is that while it is true that at my age, brachos should be on an elevated level and not merely saying the words, but for his age, it was beautiful. In fact, I don't expect anything more than that, and this gave me great nachas.

Furthermore, the fact that he is trying to mimic me gives me additional pleasure from the fact

that he is going in my footsteps.

Getting back to us, of course it is impossible to be like our forefathers, as they were giants beyond our imagination. However, as we are explaining, in every situation that we find ourselves, “I can be the very best me” by following in their footsteps and learning from the ways that they have paved for us.

Furthermore, the mere fact that we go in their footsteps, brings nachas to our forefathers. More importantly, it brings a great nachas ruach to our loving Father, Hashem, and what can be sweeter than that?

Let us bring this out with a mashal from Rav Shimshon Pinkus zt”l.

Imagine a child has a party in yeshiva. One of the candies that he receives is his favorite candy that he loves immensely.

Instead of eating it, with an ironclad will, he decides that he is saving that candy for his father.

When his father comes home, the boy takes his favorite candy and hands it to his father and tells him that he saved it especially for him. Now, his father doesn't enjoy candies at all, but this candy is the most delicious candy in the world, and we can understand why.

It is for two reasons: The father takes pleasure from the mere fact that his son is thinking about him at a party. Moreover, the fact that the son took the thing that meant most to him and gave it to his father, brings a tremendous nachas to the father.

Similarly, when we take something that is beloved to us and give it away to keep our relationship with Hashem strong, this is our personal akeida, on our level.

There is a fascinating Midrash that poses the following question: Which test of Avraham was greater – Lech Lecha or the Akeida? And the Midrash concludes it was the Akeida.

However, the question is astonishing; how can we endeavor to compare leaving his hometown to bringing his only son as a Korban?!

Based on what we are saying, it is beautiful. At the time of the Akeida, Avraham Avinu was a giant, as he had gone through life, and had triumphed over nine tests already. On the other hand, at the time of the test of Lech Lecha, while not nearly as difficult, at the same time, Avraham wasn't nearly as great yet. So, the challenge may have been the equivalent of the akeida.

Similarly, we also, have our challenges which may seem trivial compared to the tests of Avraham Avinnu, yet, are massive achievements according to our level.

The times of Moshiach!

This brings us to our current situation. All of us can hear the footsteps of Moshiach. Yes, we are looking forward to reuniting with our Loving Caring Father as never before.

At the same time, for some of us, there can be a challenge, as it entails leaving behind the place where we grew up, which is difficult.

The good news is that Avraham Avinu already paved the way for us, and we will follow in his footsteps, and happily look forward to returning to our true home in Yerushalayim.

im.

I would like to conclude, my friends, that when we have this attitude, it brings a great nachas ruach to Hashem, and this itself can usher in the geula.

Furthermore, Avraham understood that when he arrives in Eretz Yisroel, things would become much rosier, as Hashem had promised to him. Yet, the reason he went, was because this is what Hashem wanted – the Ratzon Hashem. We can also have this attitude, that although we know that we will gain immensely from having Moshiach, we still ask Hashem to take us back so that His Kingdom is restored to its glory.

Let us meet in Yerushalayim very soon, and we will proudly tell our forefathers that yes, we followed in their footsteps and **HERE WE ARE!**



Bitachon Power

The Quote The Lesson The Story

THE QUOTE: "It says in Mishlei (29:25), A person's fear will cause his falling, whereas the one who trusts in Hashem will be elevated. Which means that where no problem previously existed, a person's fear will cause a problem to develop. In contrast, if a person trusts in Hashem he will be rescued from a problem that already existed.

THE LESSON: What makes this so incredible and amazing is that Hashem loves each and every one of us so much that He even gave us an incentive not to worry or be afraid. Hashem made it that if we rely on Him and trust in Him and we do not worry and do not have anxiety, that itself will protect us from harm coming our way. It's a win win situation. We get a close keshet with Hashem, we gain a worry-free life and we have the BEST protection shayach in the gantza velt!!

DID YOU KNOW that אהבה is gematria אחד?

The reason is because the more ONE, the more connected you feel with another person, the more אהבה you will have toward the person. It is pashut. Therefore, the same applies toward Hashem, the closer connected we feel to Hashem, the more אהבה we will have and feel toward Hashem as well! Another point is that the more you love someone, the more you will shower praises on them. So too, the more you love Hashem, the more you will praise Hashem as well. You will praise what Hashem made. You will not stop praising His Torah hakedoshah, His world, His everything, His people! Also, the more you love someone the more you will not be worried that they will harm you chas V'shalom. So too by loving Hashem that itself will take away a lot of our worries.

BESIDES FOR LOVING HASHEM in our hearts, there is also a way to show Hashem we love Him with our actions. The Mesilas Yesharim tells us the secret. The regular day-in-day-out acts that we do in our Avodas Hashem is definitely required. However, that does not necessarily show our true love to Hashem. Which actions show that we really want a close relationship with Hashem and that we "love" Hashem? It's the little additions that we put effort into our Yiddishkeit that are not even expected of us. Just to give an example; say your second seder ends at 7:00 and you say, "Hashem I am staying until 7:02 because I love you." Those are two minutes of complete greatness.

I gave one tiny tiny example but there are hundreds of examples that each person can think of, where in their life they can show true love and dedication to Hashem. These small "extras" can be phrased, "The cinnamon mint tea moments of our life." What do I mean? Rav Shmuel Barron Shlit" a coined this phrase and brought out this Yesod from the Mesilas Yesharim with an incredible Mashel:

THE MASHEL: THERE WAS ONCE A YID who came home late one night from his friend's Chasuna. He was on the phone talking to someone about the wedding and he said, "You won't believe it, they had my favorite tea in the world by the Chasunah - cinnamon mint tea. I had one cup, then I had a second cup and then I gulped down a third... I must have drunk twenty cups of cinnamon mint tea..." Meanwhile his son was sitting in the next room and he overheard the entire conversation. A few weeks later the father was not feeling well and all that they had in the house was some cheap simple tea. The father was lying in bed and asked his son if he could make him a tea. The son dashed out of the house without his father knowing and bought a box of cinnamon mint tea. He ran home, prepared the tea and handed it to his father. The father thanked the son, made a bracha and took a sip. The father could not believe what he was tasting. He was utterly shocked! He said to his son, "Cinnamon mint tea? How did you know it's my favorite tea?! I am sure he wanted to give his son a big kiss on his cheek..."



This is the yesod. Doing the unexpected is extremely valuable and that is what the Mesilas Yesharim says shows true Ahavas Hashem.

בשבילי הרב שמשון רפאל הירש זצ"ל



בשבילי הרש"ר זצ"ל

פרשת וירא

וירא אליו- ה' באלוני- ממרא (פ' י"ח פ' א)

וה' אמר- המכסה אני- מאברהם אשר- אני עושה : ואברהם היו- יהיה לגוי- גדול וגו' : כי ידעתיו- למען אשר יצווה- את בניו וגו' (פ' י"ח פ' יז-י"ט)

ה' מתגלה לאברהם אחרי שאברהם וכל ביתו נימולים. ומספרת לנו התורה על הכנסת האורחים המופלאה של אברהם אבינו, המלאכים מבשרים לאברהם ושרה על לידת יצחק. ומשם ממשיכים להפוך את סדום,

בפסוק י"ז אומר ה' המכסה אני -מאברהם אשר -אני עושה?

והרי ברור שאברהם אבינו עמוד החסד ידע כמה רעים וחסמים אנשי סדום. ומדוע דאג ה לא לכסות מאב-הם את דרכיו. והרי ברור שרעת סדום ראויה לעונש,

מבאר רבינו עיקר תכלית גילוי דרכיו של ה' בהפיכת סדום היא לא לגלות רק את עונש אנשי סדום ועמורה.

אברהם אבינו הנימול הראשון עומד להיות אב ליצחק ולכל עם ישראל

כמו שנאמר היו יהיה-לגוי גדול . ואז יצווה את בניו ולכל הדורות צאצאיו של אברהם. שנהיה אנו עד עצם היום הזה עומדים ומוזהרים ע"י התבוננות וזכירת דרכיו של אברהם אבינו שהם ההפך והניגוד הגמור למעשי סדום.

לא לחנם נסמכה הפיכת סדום מייד לאחר סיפור התורה על מידת הכנסת האורחים של אברהם

שהכניס לביתו שלשה עוברי אורח עובדי עבודה זרה. ערלים. בלי שום התחשבות האם מגיע לאנשים אלו טובה או לא. בניגוד לסדום שאסרה על הכנסת אורחים ועשיית חסד.

הפיכת סדום היא הציווי אשר יצווה אברהם לבניו שתמיד תהיה חקוקה בנו הידיעה כמה נבדלים דרכיו מדרכי סדום. ומהכנסת אברהם אבינו עובדי ע"ז וערלים אנו לומדים

" גדולה הכנסת אורחים יותר מקבלת פני שכינה " ההפך הכי קיצוני מחוקי סדום. עשיית טובה בתכלית לכל עובר ושב בעל צלם אלו-קים.

וזה שאמר ה' המכסה אני- מאברהם ? כוונתו לא רק שיבין אברהם את דרכי ה' . אלא בעיקר שינחיל את דרכי ה לבניו. ושנזכור אנחנו את דרכי אברהם אבינו. ס זה תכלית סיפור הפיכת סדום.

לצאצאיו של אברהם. ולכן ראה ה צורך לגלות את מה יצווה אברהם לבניו.

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BS"D

Nkasef HaNekudos

HASHAVAS AVAIDAH

(Parshas Vayeira)

By Mrs. S. Mordechai

(And G-d opened her eyes and she perceived a well of water ...)
Bereishis 20:19

We walk. We talk. We work. We rest. Everything we do we try our best;

but truth be told,

somehow we put our sight on hold.

What would we find if G-d took off our blinders?

With our renewed vision, we would perceive miraculous reminders!

We would see that Hashem gives us everything we need

to satisfy us, every minute, so we can accomplish our tikun and our tafkid.

We would see

that all we have makes our lives easy and we would know with our opened eyes

that what seems difficult is really a bracha in disguise.

We would see Yidden shopping for Shabbos

and schmoozing with those in and out of their daled amos

and smiles wherever we go;

tzitzis and shtreimels, tichels, and sheitels, kippas and peiyos, and sleeves with elbows that

don't show.

Every Yid who passes another in need, we would see stop to give tzedaka and a kind word

that needs to be heard.

We would see gemilus chasadim at every turn

and Yiddishe Kinderlach heading for cheder with adoringly packed peckelach

excited for Torah to learn.

Shuls adorn each street

with minyans and leining,

droshos and ferbrenging,

kiddushim, shiurim, and sim-

chas with delicacies to eat.

We would see in every Yid, even acheirim,

who seem unlike ourselves, the potential for gadlus and the

Tzelem Elokim.

We would see that the whole world is made of endless love

carefully crafted in every detail by the Holy One Above.

We would see in the mirror

a Yid from the dor that more than any other is to Hashem dearer,

whose every mitzvah is precious gold,

who merits to live in the time when Im Yirtse Hashem Geulah will speedily unfold;

who, after millenia, still strives for dveikus and to follow Hashem's ways;

who will soon be zoche to see Moshiach in the end of days;

who is so grateful to be a Jew with eyes wide open to the wonderful life created for us by

HaKadosh Baruch Hu.

Endlessly Grateful to the Holy One Above for Adoringly Packing our Pekalach and HaKaras HaTov to R. Yitzchok Kaufman (The Spring Hill Times;) R. Zev Golombeck (The Bitachon Hotline;) Artscroll: Schottenstein Editions (Parshas Vayeira: Text and Commentaries;) Siddurim and Tehillim; and EK, SN, SF, LJ, RD, JF, AU, CYS, DD, MM, AG, CDS, RLC, and R. SS.

Warm Up Your Home

With the Fire of Ahavas Hashem!



The Spring Hill Times Bulletin Board

MAZEL TOV!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Shmuel Bimyomin Elefant (Chestnut Ridge, New York) on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Mordechai Tzvi!



Smile!
Hashem is Soo proud of you!

MESSAGE TYPING

The Spring Hill Times is looking for volunteers to help with typing up messages.

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thespringhilltimes@gmail.com

Dear subscriber

Each week, we give the magazines to a mailing company. In order for you get it in time for Shabbos, it goes in the mail over a week before Shabbos.

Sometimes a magazine won't reach its destination. Even if you never get it, we paid for printing and mailing it.

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Sign up for a monthly donation of \$10 and receive each week the magazine **by email.**

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We are looking for someone who is willing to sit outside Shteiblach in Lakewood and Boro Park and get more people to sign up.

Help the Spring Hill Times Grow!

We are looking for a volunteer to help manage the subscription system.

Dear Subscriber

We try our best to make sure all our charges are correct. We may make mistakes and the system sometimes has errors. Please check over your credit card statements and make sure everything is okay.

Please say that you are moichel if a mistake never gets discovered and taken care of. Thank you!

CRYSTAL CLEAR VISION



WHEN YOU SEE

LOVE the length his Peyes



LOVE how off tune he sounds!



LOVE his successes!



LOVE his mistakes



LOVE the leader he follows



LOVE the type of hat he wears



LOVE the nusach he uses to talk to Hashem with



LOVE his occupation



Don't Accuse!
Don't Judge!
Don't Convict!





ANOTHER YID:

Remember that he is part of your family!



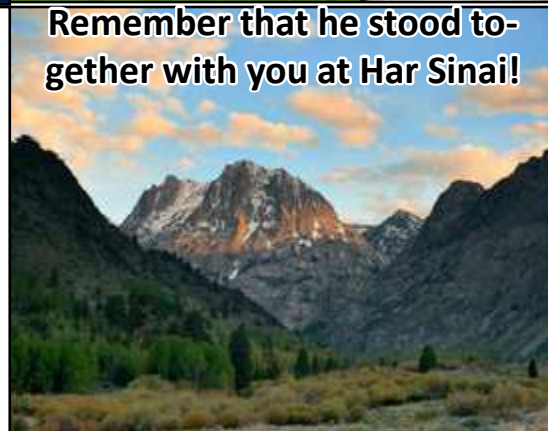
Remember that he is your other half!



Remember that Hashem created the world just for him!



Remember that he stood together with you at Har Sinai!



Remember that Hashem loves him to no end!



Give him a smile!



See his chelek Elokei m'mal his neshama!



Hold his hand and help him through life!



Accept him and love him to pieces!



Story Time

Stories From 'A Life With Bitachon'

Edited by Sari Grunwald

#1866: This story was called in by a very, very choshuva yungerman, Rabbi Gross. He had an eye doctor's appointment for his son and the office was about an hour's drive away. They set out early enough, but then they ran into very heavy bumper-to-bumper traffic. The clock was ticking, the traffic wasn't moving, and saw they would never make it on time.

They called the doctor's office to tell them about the delay and the receptionist said, "Sorry, our policy is that if you're more than 15 minutes late, we reschedule your appointment."

"We REALLY don't want to turn around when we're already halfway there," they thought. "Still, at the rate we're moving, we'll get there an hour late. There is probably no point in continuing to the doctor."

Then they strengthened themselves and said, "Who's in charge anyway? You think it's the doctor? You think it's the receptionist? Its HaKadosh Boruch Hu, our loving and caring Father, the Ribono Shel Olam. He can do anything and everything. Hashem can make it that we get there an hour late, and everything will be fine." They continued driving to the doctor, singing Hakol Yachol all the way.

When they arrived, the receptionist was surprised to see them. "Oh, I thought we had already canceled your appointment. Well, I guess once you're here, I can ask the doctor if he would agree to see you. But I know how he works. He doesn't make exceptions to the rule."

Two minutes later the receptionist returned. "I just spoke to the doctor. He said he remembers one appointment where he kept you waiting for a long time, and he feels bad about it. So he said he'll see you right now." And in no time, she took them to an examining room, and then the doctor came right in to see them - with the best service, better than ever!



#1867: This story was called in by a very, very choshuva yungerman by the name of R' Yehoshua Wax. He had applied to a sleep-away camp for one of his children and was told that in order for them to reserve a slot, he had to pay the entire camp tuition up front, \$2,000.

"They want ALL the money right now?" he thought. "Where am I going to come up with an extra \$2,000 out of the blue? They aren't even letting me pay in installments. What should I do?"

Then he said, "One second, who's in charge of paying my bills anyway? It's my loving, caring Father, HaKadosh Boruch Hu, the Ribono Shel Olam. He has all the money in the world. He's a Kol Yachol; He can do anything and everything. I'm going to throw this bill up to HaKadosh Boruch Hu."

Shortly afterwards, the phone rang, and one of his relatives called. "I was thinking of sponsoring one of your kids' camps. Do you have a child who wants to go to camp?"



"Yes, I do; I actually applied to a camp for one of my kids," R' Yehoshua answered. "But do you know how expensive it is? They want \$2,000 up front."

"Well, here it is," said his relative. "It's coming your way." And in no time, a slot was reserved for R' Yehoshua's child by this relative - who was sent by R' Yehoshua's loving caring Father, the Ribono Shel Olam!



#1868: This story was called in all the way from Tzfas by Mrs. Benjamin. Her oven isn't connected to a gas line; it runs on tanks of gas which are delivered by a gas tank company.

One Thursday she ran out of gas, and needed a new tank delivered immediately so that she could cook for Shabbos. She called the company, and asked, "Is there any way that you can make sure I get it by tomorrow? I need to start cooking for Shabbos."

"I'm sorry," they said. "Nothing doing. If you want, you can pay an extra 60 shekels for expedited delivery, but even then, it won't come before next week. There's nothing we can do for you." And they hung up the phone.

Mrs. Benjamin thought, "They said there's nothing they can do for me. But I really need gas right now, so how am I going to work this out?" Then she stopped, and said to herself, "Wait, who's in charge of when the gas should come? You think it's up to the company? It's up to Hashem. Does Hashem need me to pay extra for speedy delivery service? HaKadosh Boruch Hu can do it for free. He's a Kol Yachol; He can do anything and everything." She turned to Hashem and said, "Hashem, I'm not paying one extra shekel for delivery. I'm just going straight to You."

Friday morning, there was knock on her door, and there was her order - all the gas that she needed to cook for Shabbos, with the best service, better than ever!



#1869: This story was called in by a Mrs. Mizrachi. She said she was looking all over for her phone. It was very, very important that she find it by the next day as she didn't know how she would manage without it. She spent a long time checking every place she could think of, combing the whole area, and turning everything upside down, but it was nowhere to be found.

Then she had a thought: "Who's in charge of finding my phone? You think it's my eyes? No, it's my loving, caring Father, HaKadosh Boruch Hu, the Ribono Shel Olam. Hashem is a Kol Yachol who can do anything and everything. He knows exactly where my phone is. I'm accepting upon myself not do any more hishtadlus - I'm not looking for my phone anymore. I'm leaving it up to Hashem to put it right into my hands. Where, when, and how, I have no idea, but I'm going to trust in Hashem."



Later that day, she saw a bookshelf that needed straightening. As she was putting the books back in order, what fell into her hands? Her phone! It was somehow stuck between two books! She had no idea why it was there in the first place or who had put it there, but Hashem gave her the best delivery service, right into her hands!

The Bitachon Perspective

Q & A with Rabbi Zevy Golombeck
Typed by R' Shalom Yedidya Klatzko

Q: Chazal say that when we are faced with nisyonos and challenges, we should examine our actions.

You said over on the hotline that the action we should do teshuva for is that we didn't feel loved, cared for, watched and protected. That's the biggest teshuva in the whole world. Where is this concept brought down? What's the Emunah and Bitachon perspective about all this?

A: The first point is that the hotline is based off a mesorah that my Rebbe gave me over from his Rebbe, who gave it over from his Rebbe, all the way back to the Gra.

The second point is that this concept that my Rebbe said over is a *davar sichli*, because why did Hakadosh Baruch Hu make this world? "Olam chased yibaneh." All Hakadosh Baruch Hu wants to do is give and give and give. The biggest way to give to us is for us to feel loved and protected. That is the only thing that brings true intrinsic *simcha*. To feel Hashem is taking care of us. We give Him *nachas* by feeling loved. So get to work on feeling loved!

The biggest issue nowadays is that people don't walk around feeling loved, watched and protected. Therefore, it's the most important thing is to fix up.

The third point is that the Gemara in the end of meseches Makkos says that the Yidden used to be *machmir* in all *taryag mitzvos* but they saw that it was too hard to do. So they knocked it down to one *mitzvah*, "Tzadik b'emunaso yichyeh." The Gra says that that this is the *mitzvah* of living with Bitachon! Therefore, that's what we should be putting our *kochos* into. They asked the Gra which *pasuk* in the whole *tanach* describes what it means to live with "Tzadik beemunaso yichyeh." The Gra said the *pasuk* "Nafshi kigamul allei imo." A baby feels loved, watched, and protected. That's the translation of Bitachon! To feel like a baby in his mothers arms! So you see clearly that is the best teshuva to feel loved, watched, and protected.



**Hashem,
Your World is Stunning!**

Illuminating Words of Chazal

"Everything about Hashem, His Torah and His world is supposed to bring out positive emotions and help us have a healthy relationship with Hashem." Rav Yehuda Mandel

The Gemara in Yuma 9b says that Reish Lakish was swimming in the Yarden river. Rabba Bar Chana put out his hand, but Reish Lakish refused to take it. Reish Lakish said, "G-d hates you people from Bavel. Because you (your grandfathers) didn't come up to Eretz Yisrael during the time of Ezra, which prevented Hashraas HaShechina."

We hear on 'A Life with Bitachon' to always take people out of the picture and put Hashem there. Why was Reish Lakish blaming people? In addition, why did he distance himself and say that Hashem hates them? We know that Hashem doesn't hate anyone. And why is he blaming Rabba Bar Chana for something his great grandfathers did? How can we view this Chazal in a positive way?



Before we can understand what chazal is saying, the first thing is to understand what the chazal is NOT saying. That's always the alef beis. Whenever it seems like a chazal is negative, that's a red flag. That means you're learning the wrong peshat.

To say Hashem hates us – there's no such thing. The Meshech Chochma in Parshas Bo says that Hashem loves every yid. Every yid! Hashem doesn't hate any yid! There's no such thing, the Meshech Chochma says. So for sure it doesn't mean that Hashem hates us.

Second of all, there's no such thing that one human being could affect somebody else's life. It can't be "because my grandfather did this, now I have to suffer." We can't lose out because of another human being. Nobody can affect us. Nobody can harm us.

To say it was bad that the Shechina didn't go back to Eretz Yisrael and Klal Yisrael had to be in galus for longer, to say that there was less Shechina amongst Klal Yisrael, is bad, that also can't be. It says a halacha in Shulchan Aruch that everything is good. The Ramchal explains that the reason why it's good if there's less Shechina and there's more hester panim, is because that

gives Hashem more nachas ruach that we're able to serve Hashem despite the hester panim. That's why in a certain sense we're bigger than Amoraim and Tannaim, because the Amoraim and Tannaim saw the Shechina, and even though that's great and gevaldik, that doesn't come to our level – that we don't see Hashem and still we serve Hashem. So the less Shechina, the more hester panim, just makes Klal Yisrael even bigger and gives Hashem more nachas ruach. So galus is not b'dieved, galus is l'chatchila! As my Rabbi said over from his Rebbeim, everything in yidishkeit is l'chatchila. Galus is l'chatchila. This that Klal Yisrael didn't go back to Eretz Yisrael, it was all part of Hashem's Master Plan. The Gra says, when Hashem created the world He wanted everything that happened. The Gra says it was perfect, it's what Hashem wanted. When Hashem created the world He knew what was going to happen and He wanted it to happen and it's merumaz in the Torah that it's going to happen. It's a chelek of Torah. And everything is good and kevod Shamayim is going to come out of everything.

Now that we see what peshat is not, let's see what peshat is yes. In the Mesivta gemara, it explains that Reish Lakish didn't want to stretch out his hand to allow Rabba Bar Chana to help him

because you're not supposed to be mishtamesh with a talmid chacham. But Reish Lakish didn't want to say that, because he held that that would be gaavah to show off how he's so makpid not to be mishtamesh a talmid chacham. Reish Lakish didn't want to become a baal gaavah. So therefore he gave a different reason he didn't want to do it. Obviously, Reish Lakish wanted Raba Bar Chana to hear that reason, and there's a lot to learn from that reason.

But before we get to that reason, it's important to realize that that actual reason Reish Lakish didn't stretch out his hand was because Raba Bar Chana was so chaviv in his eyes. He was so chashuv that even though Raba Bar Chana was willing to help him, he said I don't want to be mishtamesh a talmid chacham as it would be a bizui talmid chacham. That's what the Mesivta brings down.

Now, let's go to what Reish Lakish was trying to tell him. Reish Lakish was saying: because your grandfather didn't go up to Eretz Yisrael, that caused a miut in the shechina. You have to have an attitude that Hashem was upset about it, you have to have an attitude that Hashem hates it. Every yid has to be a juggler with the truth and the attitude. The truth is that Hashem wanted everything to happen exactly the way it happened, but Hashem wants us to have a certain attitude. He wants us to have an attitude that He was upset that Klal Yisrael didn't go up to Eretz Yisrael, He was upset because it caused that the shechina didn't fully come back. Which means Klal Yisrael should say, oyyyy, Tatty, we're missing You! We love You so much! Which is exactly the purpose of what Klal Yisrael is supposed to be doing in galus. That's what we're here for, to go around and to show the world that Hashem, we're missing You for two thousand years and we love You and we can't wait to see You and we're so excited to connect with You and we're so excited to bond with You! That is what we're doing here in galus. We live with hester panim but we're still telling the world how much we love Hashem, that's what we're doing here in galus.

So Reish Lakish was telling him, you have to have an attitude that Hakadosh Baruch Hu hates it that your ancestors didn't go back. You know why? Because that means that now the Shechina didn't come back in its full glory and there's hes-

ter panim. Your job is to fill up that gap and be marbeh kevod Shamayim. You have to go around speaking to the tzibbur how much we love Hashem and how important it is to feel Hashem and how important it is to build a relationship with Hashem. Because we don't have the zechus of seeing Hashem in His full glory, we have to go above and beyond to bring Hashem into our life and make Him real and tangible, which gives Hakadosh Baruch Hu the greatest nachas ruach. Even though there's hester panim, and even though it looks like He's closing the curtain on us, say, "Hashem, we can't get enough of You. We can't stop thinking about You. We just love You more and more! We're always thinking about You!" That is the point! The point is Hashem is saying, Klal Yisrael, show Me how much you love Me, how much you can't stop thinking about Me, and how much it bothers you that there's no full glory!

That is the message that Reish Lakish is telling him. Reish Lakish was saying, if this happened through your grandfather, if Hashem made hester panim come through your grandfather, that is a sign that your tafkid and tikkun in this world is to go to the opposite extreme and be marbeh kevod Shamayim. Bring kiddush Shem Shamayim b'rabim. Teach the world. Focus on relationship with Hashem, on making Hashem real and tangible. Be marbeh more gilui shechina. Do things that will be marbeh more kevod Shamayim.

Bottom line is that Hashem loves everyone and Hashem wanted everything to happen and everything is l'chatchila. And Reish Lakish was just telling him, your tafkid is to undo what your grandfather did. Your grandfather was a gorem for hester panim, now your job is to spread the word, to go extreme in ribui kevod Shamayim. Go around talking about Hashem, go around feeling loved by Hashem, go around making Hashem real and tangible. Go around to Klal Yisrael and show them how much we love Klal Yisrael and we miss You Hashem. We miss Him. Say oy we miss Him, we don't have Him. That's your tafkid. There's a tafkid in this world. People's tafkidim, there are people who their tafkid is to go extreme in being marbeh kevod Shamayim, to making Hashem real. And that's what Reish Lakish was telling him. That you have to undo what your grandfather did, that's your tafkid!



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Our Readers Share



Editor's Note: Some of these stories are from many months ago.

Kiddush Hashem

My name is Devora Kellner. I'm a big-fan of your magazine, and so is my whole family.



When I was about seven years old, my neighbor was babysitting for me. My brother was supposed to be coming home soon, so we went outside to see if my brother was coming.

Just then, a non-Jewish lady drove in to the complex where I live, but she came in the wrong way on a one-way road. People started shouting at her, and I felt so bad for her. I was always taught how important it is to make a Kiddush Hashem.

I went over to her and explained why everyone was shouting (of course, now I know that it isn't really safe to go up to strangers, but at the time I didn't think about it).

She said to me, "Thank you, princess!"

I will never forget how good I felt when she told me that!

I am now fourteen years old.

This story happened a long time ago. But the impact it had on me still stays with me.

I remember in camp just a few months ago, after we had a party one night, I woke up early and went into the dining room to see if some people were there. I saw a cleaning lady who was cleaning up the dining room. The floor was a wreck! I thought to myself. "She is cleaning all by herself! I know this is her job, but it is too much!" I helped her, and she gave me a hug.

That is what it means to make a Kiddush Hashem!

-Devora Kellner, Lakewood, NJ

Hakol Yachol

I went for a blood test. It is usually very traumatic for me when the nurse draws blood, so I closed my eyes and sang to myself "Hakol Yachol," and it passed really fast! It was the least traumatic blood test that I can remember.

-A Reader

Charger Found!

We love reading the Spring Hill Times stories during the Shab-



bos meals.

Recently I was looking high and low for my camera's battery charger, and couldn't find it anywhere. My daughter was making a bris, so I really needed to charge my camera before it began.

A day before the bris, I started looking for it again, this time singing 'Hakol Yachol' and after a few minutes I found it in a drawer that I had searched earlier and never noticed it there.

Thank you so much Spring Hill Times.

-R. S. Jerusalem

Bracelets Found

On Rosh Hashana, I was in a hurry



to get to shul and I was walking quickly. In my jacket pocket I had a diamond and silver bracelet which fell out.

I only realized at the end of davening about three hours later, that they were missing. I started to retrace my steps all the while reminding myself over and over that Hashem is the Kol Yachol and started singing the song.

I also told Hashem that if He helps me find my bracelets, I will publicize it in The Spring Hill Times.

Baruch Hashem, I'm grateful to Hashem for letting me find both bracelets in perfect condition!!

-A Reader

REMEMBERING THE MIRACLES, THE CHESSED AND THE TESHUVA

HOSTAGES RELEASED

Another two hostages were released from Gaza!

Blessed be Your name, Hashem!

We love You, Hashem!

THANKING HASHEM IS STRONGER THAN ALL THE WEAPONS!

A middle-aged woman who lived in one of the yishuvim that was attacked on Simchas Torah, ran and locked herself in her cheder ma'amad (Fortified room). The terrorists went after her.

She doesn't know why, but she started to say "Hashem, toda, toda, toda..." - thank You for protecting me, thank You...

She kept repeating this, and the terrorists spent a really long time trying to break down the door with all their weapons, but they just couldn't get to her. She survived!

Thank You Hashem!

FOOD FOR AN ARMY

Part 2

THE TRAVELING CHOLENT

Editor's note: We printed, two weeks ago, in issue 119, an amazing Mi K'amcha Yisrael and Hashgacha Pratis story that took place in Neve Ya'akov.

Here is part 2:

Dear Editor:

I don't usually get to see your publication, but tonight my friend (from Neve Ya'akov) read to me the story "Food for an Army" (Parshas Noach) As soon as he started, I said that that story was about my son! He is the '18-year-old bochur from the community! I was happy to see the story, and as soon as I got home I showed it to my son. He told me there's even more to the story, and I heard it again from the man who organized the whole thing:

Even though they gave away a lot of food before shabbos, there was a giant pot of cholent which they couldn't give away. The organizer was taking his family to Beit Shemesh for Shabbos, so he was desperately trying to find someone in Neve Ya'akov who could use or take the cholent. He couldn't find anybody, so he had no choice but to take the cholent with him to Beit Shemesh, where maybe he would find a taker.

On the way, he spoke to someone on the phone who said he could use the cholent in Beit Shemesh, but in the end he never arrived to take it.

So the family just left it on the hotplate overnight Leil Shabbos, hoping maybe they would

come Shabbos morning to take it. But nobody came for the Cholent.

After shacharis, the man decided to stay in the shul and learn for a while. He hoped that maybe the person who wanted the Cholent would come find him there. He was finally about to go home and make Kiddush, when he saw someone who looked like he was in charge of food in the shul.

He went over to him and asked him (as a last hope) if perhaps he needed a giant cholent.

The person hugged him and said that he was a 'shaliach from Hashem'!

What's the story?

He has a family of 12 and they were hosting for Shabbos 42 Beis Ya'akov girls. They rented out the hall in the shul for the meals, but something happened to their cholent and it got completely spoiled. He had no idea what he was going to do!

They then brought over the big cholent from the man's house to the shul for the Shabbos day meal. It turns out they ate the entire thing, instead of going hungry!

This is the cholent that was planned for people from the South coming to Neve Ya'akov, and ended up in Beit Shemesh

Tel Aviv-Yafo

feeding 42 girls from Beis Ya'akov. Chasdei Hashem!

Keep up the great work in inspiring Am Yisroel!

LIFE SAVING CHESED

David Moshe Shleifer reported that his brother in Eretz Yisrael works now as a shadchan for finding apartments for people.

Someone from Netivot called his brother and told him that there is a family in Yerushalayim that wants to do chesed with their apartment and give it to a family in need.

His brother, the apartment shadchan, found a large family from Netivot who needed a temporary apartment.

The family then called him to tell him that their house in Netivot was hit by a rocket!

We see how far chesed can go, it saved the family's lives!

[As told over by David Moshe Shliefer]

YIDDEN CARE FOR EACH OTHER

Dr. Berger works at an emergency room in Baltimore, Maryland.

Upon hearing about the situation in Israel, he put his parnassah on hold to volunteer and

traveled to Israel to aid Yidden who were in need of help!

Unbelievable chesed!

[Heard by Rabbi Zevy Golombeck]

YIDDEN LOVE HASHEM'S MITZVOS!

150,000 tzitzis are being distributed amongst the army!!

....

Thousands of men who weren't donning tefillin are now putting on tefillin each day!

THE BEST MISTAKE

A Resident in one of the towns attacked by the terrorists recounts:

"When I did my home renovation, it turned out that the door man made a mistake and put in armored, metal doors. In retrospect, that's what saved us. When the soldiers came to rescue us, I wasn't sure if I could trust them- and if they were really our soldiers, so I shouted, "שמע ישראל," and they answered, "ד' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ד' אֶחָד!" Then I knew it was the IDF, and opened the door!"

Told over by בני חסון, of תושב ביסופים, who survived the massacre.

KLAL YISRAEL RETURNING HOME TO HASHEM

In the initial fighting, a soldier was killed and the soldier's father from the USA, was on route on an El Al flight to his son's funeral. He made it to the tail end of the funeral and told the following story.

He is religious, Lubavitch, but he's never before asked anyone to put on tefillin.

This time, while on the flight he wanted to do an extra mitzvah in honor of his son. He mustered the courage and asked his seatmate if he would be interested in putting on tefillin. The man said, "No thank you." Then he asked the next seatmate and got the same response. They asked him why he approached them. He told them about his son and that he was looking to do extra mitzvos to honor him. They both said, "we changed our minds."

Word got out on the plane about this. Eventually a line developed in the aisles with many people wanting to put on tefillin to honor his son.

Not long after there was an announcement from the pilot saying that he was handing over the cockpit to his copilot so that he could also go put on the tefillin!!!!

THIS WEEK

Stories Reported in The Spring Hill Times from Previous Years' Issues

VAYEIRA 5783 ISSUE 73

AN ANGEL?



My talmid told me over an unbelievable story he heard from his uncle, Rabbi Hirsch*:

Last Winter, his daughter and son-in-law were traveling overseas. Rabbi Hirsch* owns a parking lot near the airport so the couple parked their car there for the duration of their trip.

When they were due to come back, there was a major snowstorm and the whole parking lot was full of snow. Rabbi Hirsch* decided to surprise his daughter and son-in-law and started shoveling out their car.

To his surprise, in the middle of nowhere, someone appeared and said, "Can I help you? I am a truck driver and I just drove for about 14 hours and am taking a rest. I like to rest up by using energy and I would love to help you shovel."

When he was done shoveling, Rabbi Hirsch* asked the mysterious man "What is your name and how much do I owe you?" The man replied, "My name is Angel, and the work is absolutely free!" The man then said he must go back to his truck.

Rabbi Hirsch* was so amazed, he quietly attempted to follow him back to his truck to find out more about him, but the man totally disappeared into nowhere. (Rabbi Golombeck)

VAYEIRA 5783 ISSUE 73

MAN FINDS APARTMENT

A mother from Eretz Yisrael called her parents in the USA with the good news that she had a baby. She asked them to come for the bris.



She said that she would look for an apartment for them to stay in.

However, she couldn't find any available. Her father, a foot doctor, said, "It makes no difference that we don't yet have a place. We will go to Eretz Yisrael and Hashem will surely find us a place to stay."

And find He did!

Shortly before the flight, the doctor received a call from a patient who needed him to look at his foot. He said, "If you come immediately I can still look

at it before I leave."

The patient came and asked him where he was going?

The doctor told him that he was going to Eretz Yisrael for a bris of a grandson and that they still needed an apartment.

The patient asked, "Where does your daughter live?" The Doctor told him.

The patient was incredulous – he was just in Eretz Yisrael and stayed in an apartment in that very building! He then called the owner of the apartment and yes it was available!! (ALWB - Story 1388)

HASHEM PAYS FOR YOM TOV EXPENSES

R' Chaim* from Denver, Colorado*, related to me, that when he was newly married, he lived in Eretz Yisroel. A three day Shavuot was coming up, starting Shabbos, then Sunday and Monday. Quite a

IN HISTORY



few bochurim wanted to eat with him on the second day of Yom Tov.

His wife realized that having them would exceed their budget. They

might even have to dip into their recent chasuna savings, so she asked her husband what to do. He said that the expenses of Shabbos and Yom Tov are not in their calculated budget, as the Gemara tells us.

So she shopped for Yom Tov including for all the guests and the expenses came out to four hundred dollars.

The Friday after Yom Tov, R' Chaim's father flew

into Eretz Yisrael. He brought them some money from R' Chaim's grandmother.

Usually she would send them twenty to thirty dollars. This time she sent one hundred dollars for him, and one hundred for his wife.

In addition, R' Chaim's father gave them an envelope someone sent which was a belated chasuna gift of one hundred dollars.

They also received from a rental car company a reimbursement of one hundred dollars.

R' Chaim then promptly gave his wife the four hundred dollars to replenish their account!

[Harav Eli Yelen]

VAYEIRA 5784 ISSUE 121

HASHEM SENDS CHEESECAKE

Mrs. Gerber* was in the mood of a cheesecake. Not just a cheesecake. She wanted to open the door and find a cheesecake and a note of how much she is appreciated. She wanted someone to show her hakaras hatov.



That same day, she got a phone call from her friend who said, "I just dropped something off by your door as a token of appreciation."

Mrs. Gerber opened the door and... it was a cheesecake!

Yes! Hashem loves us!

BITACHON SONGS UNLOCK SAFE

R' Moishy Yelen was in shul. Mispallelim in the Shul were trying to open up the safe for the Aron Hakodesh to no avail.

The person who usually does it wasn't there. The Rav tried to do it but he couldn't either get it open.

Moishy then heard one yungerman singing R'

Ephraim Wachsman's niggun from the hotline, a different yungerman singing Hakol Yachol, and... Baruch Hashem it opened up!



Moishy was so blown away.

The ruach and the chinuch of this generation is unbelievable. The world has changed!

YIDDEN LOVE EACH OTHER!

R' Yossi Greenberg* needed to go to the airport but he didn't have any money on him to pay for his trip. As he was standing outside, wondering how things would work out, a non-frum taxi driver stopped and said to him "I want to give you a ride for free wherever you want to go! I feel so close to my brothers - the Charedim."



We can feel the Ahavas Yisrael in the air! Mi K'amcha Yisrael!

HASHEM IS OUR

PRESIDENT!

Hashem Loves You

The following story has been heard firsthand from a Yiddishe soldier:

HaGaon HaRav Yitzchok Dovid Grossman Shlita from Migdal Ohr heard in passing from 'Lieutenant M.' during the Second Lebanon War that six hundred Yiddishe soldiers, drained and exhausted from heavy combat, needed a good place to refresh and recharge on their day off.

"What's the problem? 600 soldiers? They should all come, of course, let them come to Migdal Ohr! We have plenty of room!"

Upon their arrival, Rav Grossman greeted them warmly, "Boys, I suggest that the first thing you do is take a dip in the pool and freshen up. In the meantime, we will make you something to eat."

Within minutes the tables were set with cold refreshing watermelon, cakes, and beverages, followed by cheeses, fresh vegetables, and soft rolls.

"Out of the pool, get dressed and eat something." Piles of new clothing appeared, as if from nowhere, for everyone to freshen up.

Rav Grossman sat with everyone and laughed, *"Have a great time, boys! This evening, I will put on the most spectacular performance you have ever seen."*

A few months before the war began, Rav Grossman had been offered a new Sefer Torah by a generous friend from France. Rav Grossman immediately made arrangements that the grand Hachnasas Sefer Torah should take place that very night. All the soldiers participated in the completion of writing the Torah. While the Torah was carefully laid on the table, Rav Grossman addressed the soldiers:

"Each one of you should daven that the zechus of writing a letter in the Sefer Torah will protect you in battle, great sparks of Kedusha emanate from these sacred letters and disperse around you, creating a protective shield which will keep you safe and bring you home safely."

After the completion of the Torah, the ceremony continued. Leading the procession was a decorated car with multi-colored lights strung all over it.

600 soldiers and thousands of the town residents

marched and danced in the procession, a loudspeaker accompanying them, playing heartzig Yiddishe Niggunim.

As the event came to a close, Rav Grossman approached every soldier and kissed him while placing a half-shekel coin in his hand saying, *"Shluichei mitzvah are not harmed."* Rav Grossman concluded, *"When you return, with Hashem's help, healthy and unharmed, you will fulfill this mission that I am placing upon you, and you will donate this money to Tzedaka."*

A moment before they returned to Lebanon Rav Grossman told everyone, *"In the zechus that you said Shema and put on tefillin, wrote a letter in the Torah, and are Shluichei mitzvah, I promise you, that you will all return safe and sound. None of you will be wounded or killed."*

Two weeks later around midnight, Rav Grossman received a phone call. "Rav, your Bracha has come true!" exclaimed the commander over the phone. "Shockingly, everyone is safe and we are on our way to you. We will be there by two in the morning." Rav Grossman immediately contacted the kitchen staff and asked them to prepare a meal while he worked to organize a band.

At 2:30 a.m. the soldiers disembarked from the buses,

each one carrying 60 kilos of equipment on his back. The band started playing music and the soldiers approached Rav Grossman, each one lovingly received with a hug and a kiss. This continued for two hours. "I felt as I had never felt before," recalls Rav Grossman. "Each one told me his personal Neis."

The list of Nissim was endless! There were so many Nissim that happened to everyone. Everyone felt so loved, cared for, watched and protected by Hashem!

Hashem is doing Nissim for us at every moment, whether we realize it or not! Hashem is protecting us in an unimaginable way! Keep thanking Hashem nonstop for all of the Chesed He has done for you and you will see even more Chesed, Rachamim and Yeshuos from Hashem!

Hashem loves us!



Taken from The Hashem Loves You Hotline 267-833-0596

Where in the Parsha do we find a connection with these pictures?

Parsha Fun



Vayera
Riddle #111

To hear the answer to the question, press 214 # 111 on the Chaishek HaTorah Line 8457204040

Lot stayed on the escape track; he obeyed the instruction not to look back. His wife disobeyed and became a pillar of salt. A fitting punishment (since she denied her guests salt,) for a serious fault. Five Hebrew letters comprise her name. The first one is an "Ayin." What is her "Shalm?"



Hashem's beautiful world!

פרשת וירא

- 1) What was the purpose of each of the three מלאכים?
- 2) Why does it say the word וירא twice in one פסוק?
- 3) Why did Avrohom make the מאלכים wash their feet?
- 4) Why does the Torah say 'לבנים' and not'בבנים' ?
- 5) Why did Avrohom prepare three cows?
- 6) Why did Hashem go down to see was going on in סדום and עמורה?
- 7) What are the three actions referred to by the word 'ויגש'?

If you would like to submit answers and be entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card, please call 9294964093. Cheder Bnei Torah. To get this Parsha sheet emailed to you every week, send a request to torahshleimah@gmail.com. Sponsorship opportunities available. לעילוי נשמת ר' בנימין זאב בן ר' נתן ז"ל קאפפעל תנצב"ה Sponsored

Answers for the Parsha Pictures

Bow and Arrow: Yishmael will be a Roveh Kashos.

Wood chopping: Avraham chopped wood for the Akeida.

Thank You, Hashem, for Erasers! We can so easily correct our mistakes!



Thank You, Hashem, for Goo Gone! We can remove all gooey stuff from items so efficiently!



5
Weekly



Thank You's

By: R' Simcha Elefant Yerushalayim
Ir Hakodesh
לזכות משה יהודה בן שושנה

Thank You, Hashem, for SandPaper! We can make our wood and other items so smooth so easily!



Thank You, Hashem, for Take out food! You're busy or hungry or just want a break, there's so many delicious options for us!



Thank You, Hashem, for Stickers! Our kids can be so busy playing with them, and they can make people feel good!



The best you could do was a painting if you were an artist. Even when cameras were invented the pictures were black and white and not clear.



&

SAW AN AMAZING NIFLAOS HABOREI AND WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE AND SPREAD IT AROUND THE WORLD?



Just take out your camera or phone that has a camera and snap a beautiful picture, as many as you want!





At our Urgent Care: Pain becomes Gain. Aches turn into Cupcakes. Worries become Snow Flurries. Annoy turns into Joy. Flu becomes a Peanut Chew. A Cold turns into Gold. Hurt becomes Comfort.

Doctor Dr. Chaim Altzisgut M.D. Date _____

I'm prescribing 2 medication for you.

Patient

People say that the current situation is like right before World War Two. It makes me feel scared and anxious that maybe something bad c"v is bound to happen.

1. These are words that come out of the Yetzer Hara's mouth in order to make you anxious! Run away from anyone who tries to make you scared. It's the opposite of what Hashem wants from You. He wants you to trust in Him and to feel 100% safe and secure!
2. Take every human being out of the picture and the only thing you should see is Hashem. The Iranians, Hamas, Hezbollah, China and everyone else are Hashem's puppets. They have the same power over you as an ant has. Everything is Hashem from beginning to end. Just focus on Him and cling to Him and you will be fulfilling your purpose in life. Whatever plays out in the world has nothing to do with you. It's Hashem's business and mind your own business!

**DON'T FORGET
YOUR DAILY EXERCISE!**



**Remind Yourself that Hashem
Loves You to No End!**





Ba'al Bitachon

A person who knows that everything comes from his loving, capable and reliable Father.

V.S.

Alchemist

A person who can take plain materials and turn them into gold using a chemical process.

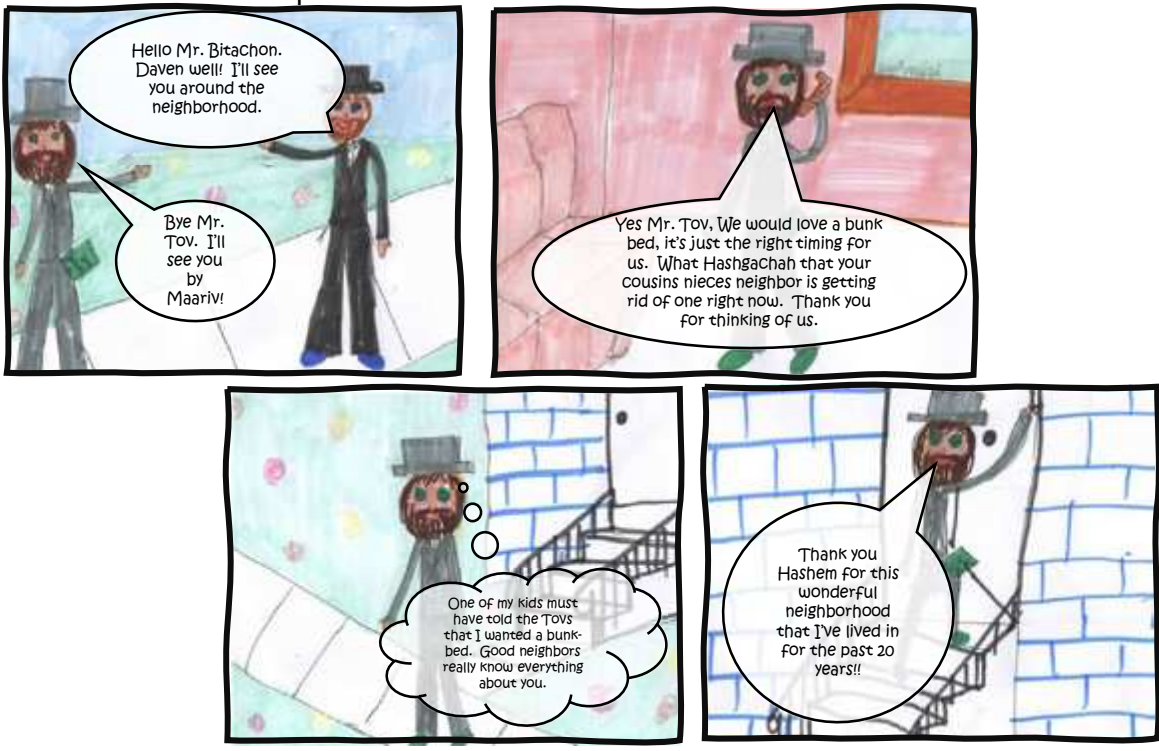


One would think that an Alchemist is always assured to have whatever he wants. However, in the sha'ar bitachon we learn 10 ways that the ba'al bitachon is superior to an alchemist.

#8: The alchemist can't remain in one place too long. He is afraid his secret will be discovered and he will be harmed or put to death.



One who is Boteach in Hashem can be secure where he is, and he can have peace of mind in his place of residence.



PASSING BY SOMEONE? SHOW HIM A SMILE! GREET HIM NICELY!

TRAVELING THE PATH OF OUR GEDOLIM

Reb Aharon Kotler was not just a Rosh Yeshiva and a leader of the generation. He was also concerned about each and every Jew he met. Jews from all over would call Reb Aharon with their troubles, and he always found the right person to help.

For his own students, he guided each one in their studies and their personal lives.

The students revered him, and he supported them in many different ways. One student took a summer job in a factory in New York. One day, he went out for some air on his lunch break. From a distance, he saw Reb Aharon walking down the street. Embarrassed to be seen in his work clothes, he quickly ran back inside. A few days later, the new yeshiva z'man started. One by one the students went in to say hello to the Rosh Yeshiva. This student came too.

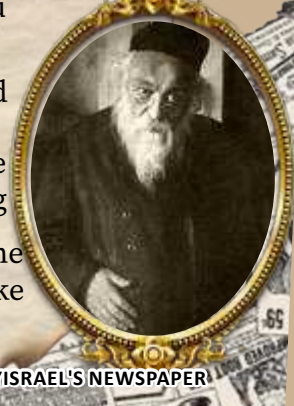
Reb Aharon told him, "A few days ago I saw you on Delancey Street, and you didn't come over to say hello. Why were you in such a hurry?" The student gulped, then told him the truth. "I was in my work clothes and I was embarrassed to be seen by the Rosh Yeshiva."

Reb Aharon said, "There is nothing to be ashamed of. The Gemara says, 'Work honors those who perform it.' You did not do anything wrong by taking an honest job!

But I have a different question: why did you have to work? If you needed money, you should have told me! I would have been delighted to give you money!"

Another student was an orphan and had no means of support. He asked

Reb Aharon for permission to leave yeshiva for a few weeks to take a temporary job. Reb Aharon said, "If you need money or anything at all, come to me." The student said, "I don't want to take the Rosh Yeshiva's money." Reb Aharon said, "Why not? I am like your father. From a father you can take!"



P.P.P.

MR. MIDDOS

ERT!MIDDOSALERT!MIDDOSALERT!MIDDOSA

PROTECTING PEOPLE'S PRIVACY



"Hey, where's that music coming from??"
 Tune: Toras Hashem Temima:)
 When there's a hatzola on the street
 Does it mean it's meant for you
 To stand in the way the whole entire day
 Trying to figure out what's happening
 (Again) Let's try to respect people's privacy
 And when an ambulance we see
 We can quietly, and nicely say
 Some tehilim that hopefully everyone's okay!
 (Again) There's no need to run after a fire truck
 Even though you're curious what occurred
 Just imagine if it would be you
 Would you enjoy the audience there to stay?"



By: Ahuva Rothenberg

ETCHED CORRECT

Could you engrave "Chaim" on this kiddush cup?

SILVER ENGRAVING

WORKERS ONLY

Store hours:
open
Sun- Thurs-
9-5
closed
on Friday

It will be done tomorrow - have a nice day.

It's the Ben Ish Chai's, Harav Yosef Chaim's yahrzeit! Every story I hear about him shows his great tzidkus. Now back to work.

WORKERS ONLY

The next day

I came to pick up the kiddush cup, I had you engrave the name Chaim on it



What was his name?

His name was - and still is Chaim. Didn't I just tell you, his name?

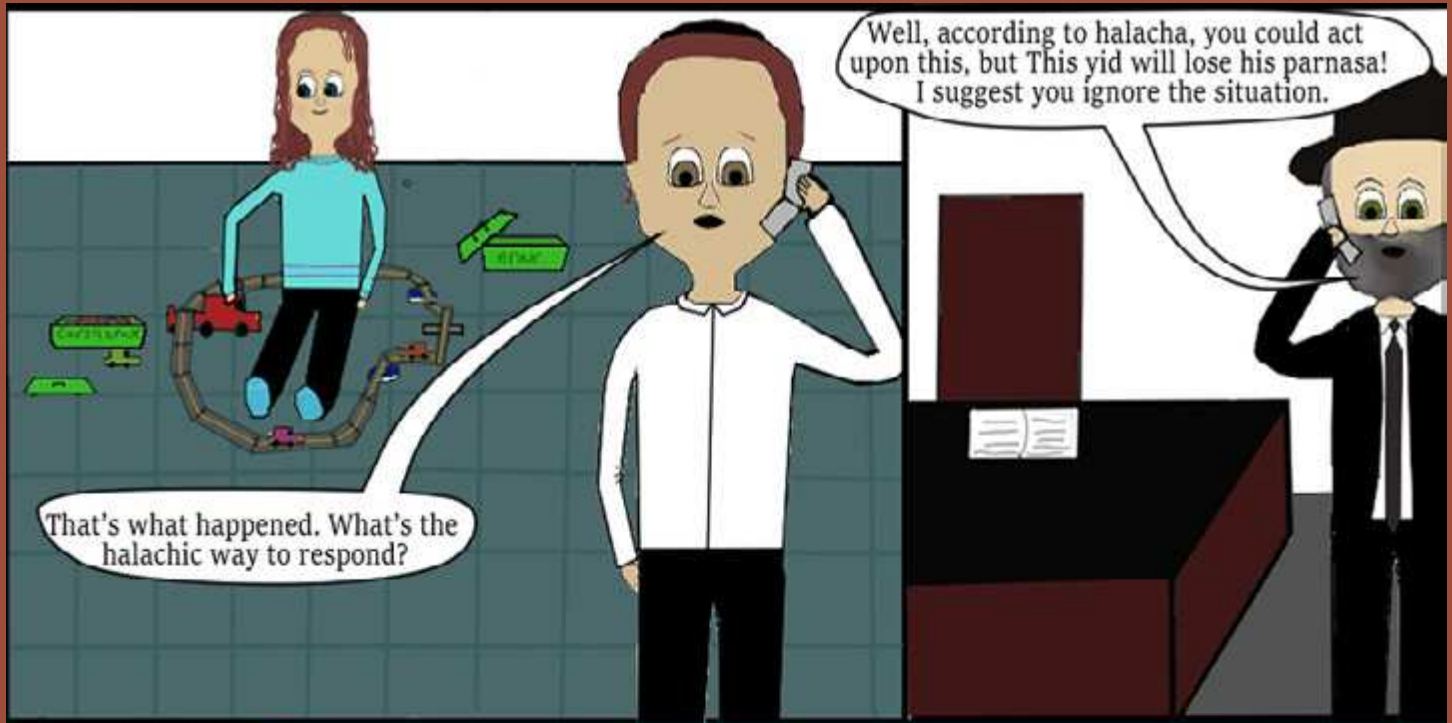
OY VEI! Um R' Yid, please don't tell my boss! I'll get fired! I don't have much parnasa anyway, and this was keeping me on my feet. After messing up two times in one week, I'll lose my job! I-I-I It was the Ben-Ish-Chai's yahrzeit! I etched Yosef Chaim by accident.

I don't care that it was a mistake. Don't blame it on the Ben Ish Chai! My son's name is Chaim, plain Chaim!

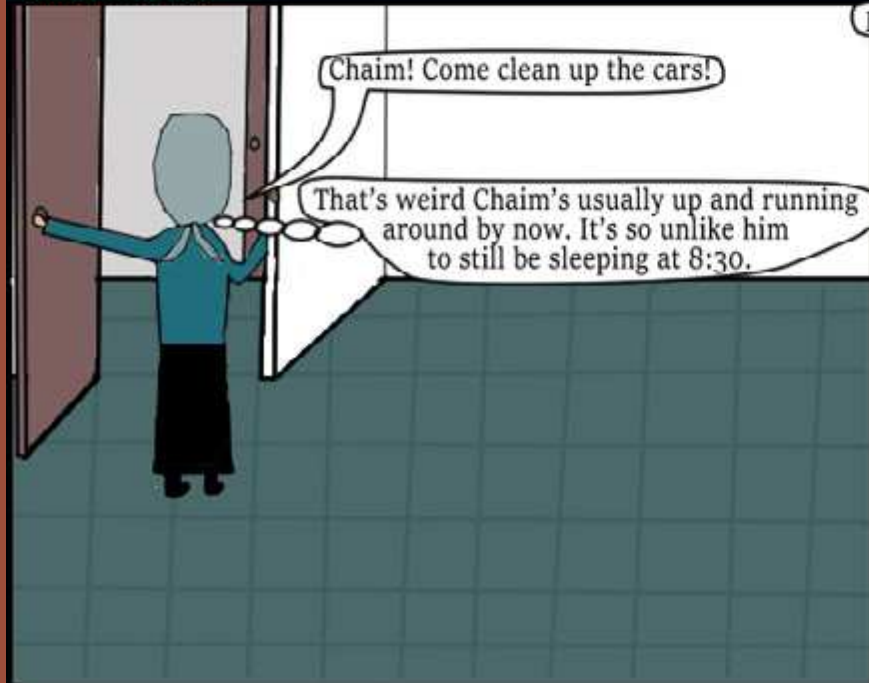
Store hours:
open
Sun- Thurs-
9-5
closed
on Friday

SILV

Story heard from R' Fishel Shachter via Stories To Inspire Hotline



Some time later



to be continued BEH



LET US IMAGINE

Let us imagine for just a few minutes that the world as we know it would turn on its head, and people would suddenly have the ability to read minds...

People would go to work and return a few hours later after being fired for thinking negatively about the boss.

Children would go to school and come home in tears from their teachers' impatient thoughts and the insulting comments their classmates thought.

Friends would get together and leave in a huff from the negative remarks in their friends' brains.

People would slowly start self-quarantining, not from Corona, but from fear of thinking the wrong thing.

Daily life would grind to a halt, with less and less people venturing out.

Even at home, there would be no Shalom Bayis; husbands and wives would be clapping their hands to their foreheads all day, but it would be too late to take back the hurtful comment they thought.

Even when the comment wasn't intended to be mean, there would be so many misunderstandings from reading other people's thoughts that it wouldn't even matter; people wouldn't bother to clarify.

Parents' impatient thoughts would be read by their kids even if they acted kind and patient on the outside.

There would be zero privacy between people. Even positive actions would become known to others, thereby lessening the *schar*. The concept of doing something *lishmah* wouldn't exist.

People would constantly be over the *issurim* of *lashon hora*, *onaas devarim*, *rechilus*, *machlokes*, etc., even before they would have a chance to think if it's appropriate or not say it!

Strangers would be able to read thoughts of *aveiros* or embarrassing incidents in other people's minds. As a result, people would constantly feel humiliated and their self-esteem would be crushed to the ground.

People would be so depressed from all the hurt and embarrassment caused by their thoughts that they would not be able to function.

They might go to therapists to help themselves, but the therapists would be suffering from the same problem! And even if not, there's a very good chance that the client would get hurt from the therapist's thoughts!

Going to the grocery would be an emotionally and spiritually dangerous, mortifying task that no one would agree to. The resultant self-isolation would lead to many emotional problems.

Almost no one would get into school because they would reveal negative information about themselves in their heads

during the interview or they would think an insult about the interviewer.

Dates would never work out, because each person would feel so self-conscious about being analyzed by the other. Sensitive information would be unintentionally revealed throughout the date.

In public places, there would be so many people's thoughts crowding around each person's head. No one would be able to think properly and they would walk away with a huge migraine.

During a *shiur* or public speech, the speaker would get so mixed up from everyone else's thoughts that he wouldn't be able to deliver the speech. Even if he somehow managed to give over the material, no one would be able to hear him because of all the background thoughts.

Who used an infinite amount of Divine wisdom to create the brain in such a concealed fashion?

Who ensured that our thoughts remain private, thereby giving us the opportunity to do countless mitzvos and avoid countless aveiros?

You, Hashem, our beneficent Creator, Knower of all thoughts!!!

Thank You, thank You, thank You for the incredible gift of private thoughts that You give us, with endless love and care, every second of the day, 365 days a year!

Ayin Tova

Seeing the good in every situation
R' Nesanel Landesman

Shlomo is always telling his chavrusa, Ezra, that he fills up his coffee too high and causes unnecessary spillage. Ezra always responded that he is very careful and doesn't spill.



Matters came to a head, when one day, Ezra's coffee spilled all over Shlomo's Gemara, leaving a large dark brown stain all over. Shlomo was fuming.



Help Shlomo have ayin tova for Ezra and his situation.

You can send your suggestions for the AYIN TOVA CASE to:

ayintovanewsletter@gmail.com

Or call [Israeli daytime hours only]: USA: 8312446019 Eretz Yisrael: 0527605409

SOLUTIONS



Suggestions for the case of the couple whose Eretz Yisroel plans for Yom Tov were canceled.

Hashem needed them to accomplish something on this side of the ocean, and they should feel privileged that He chose them.



- Perhaps, had they gone they may have had some frustrating experiences, and left E"Y with bad feelings. This way, they actually anticipate the next time they would have a chance to go!

- Certainly, Hashem has other plans for them.
- The place where they were supposed to stay canceled on them.
- They could view this as an opportunity to work on their Emunah.
- This is a great way for them to build their relationship, and discover new ways of dealing with stressful situations together.
 - Perhaps, they would have encountered problems with the plane only after they took off, and it would have been more dangerous and more frightening.
 - They could now stop and appreciate all the things that are necessary for a flight to go right. We tend to take these things for granted!

DEAL OF A LIFETIME

One of Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman, zt"l neighbors, was Rav Lipa Yisraelsohn. Before Rav Lipa would travel to New York, he'd come to Rav Aharon Leib to receive a beracha for hatzlacha. One time, however, he was in for a surprise. Rav Aharon Leib lifted his eyes and said, "Rav Lipa, since you're going to America, I'll make a deal with you!"

Before Rav Lipa could inquire as to the type of business Rav Aharon Leib was interested in making, Rav Aharon Leib told him that the deal was indeed serious — one that Rav Lipa stood to potentially make one million dollars! "During your travels to America, you'll meet up with many wealthy people. If you meet one of them who's as wealthy as I am, I'll give you a million dollars cash."

Rav Aharon Leib stood up from his seat, took Rav Lipa by the hand, and proceeded to walk him around the house. Rav Aharon Leib stopped next to the refrigerator, opened its door, and pointed to the many items inside. "Tell me please, Rav Lipa, is there anything missing here? B'chasdei Hashem, there's plenty of food here — food for during the week, food for Shabbos, etc. Baruch Hashem, we're not lacking anything!"

Rav Aharon Leib's younger years in Lithuania were times of serious poverty. He once mentioned to a relative of his that they used to say that only the rich people could eat chicken on Shabbos, and only one known wealthy person, Zev Visosky, ate chicken even during the week! If so, they'd joke, what did he eat for Shabbos? Fruit compote!

"But my fridge," quipped Rav Aharon Leib, "has fruit compote all the time. See, then, how I'm the richest man in the world!"

CADILLAC IN BNEI BRAK

Rav Aharon Leib continued his tour by opening his closet. "Look at how much clothing I have — weekday clothes, Shabbos clothes, clothes for winter, and clothes for summer. In gashmiyus, I'm not lacking anything, and in ruchniyus, I try to do what's required of me. So, if you're able to find someone better off than me, you'll be a million dollars richer!"

Rav Lipa got on the plane with Rav Aharon Leib's words ringing in his ears. He decided to search out and find if there really was a Yid in America richer than Rav Aharon Leib. Sure enough, he went around and met many wealthy people — millionaires and even billionaires — but none of them could testify that they were happy or content with their lot.

One told Rav Lipa how every time he earns a million dollars, he's pained that he didn't work harder and bring in two. Another revealed how his life is nothing but worry and fear — to the point that his young son needed an armed guard to escort him to school lest he get kidnapped for ransom! Every wealthy philanthropist he met complained about the tremendous yoke he carried on his shoulders, about the headaches, the ungratefulness, and the constant pressures that filled his life.

On the course of his trip, Rav Lipa came to one person's

mansion that was so big that Rav Lipa had to drive six minutes from the front gate just to get to the man's office. In the middle of the meeting, the gvir turned to Rav Lipa and said, "If you promise me a month of peace and serenity, I'll write you a check for three million dollars!"

On his flight back to Eretz Yisrael, a millionaire confided to Rav Lipa: "All my friends only care about my money. I'm alone without any companions. I can't trust anyone, not even my close family. All of them only honor and flatter me just because of their personal interests. Nobody in the world sincerely cares about me."

Throughout his journey, Rav Lipa thought to himself, "How can I tell these wealthy people that in Bnei Brak, on 5 Rechov Chazon Ish, in an old, dilapidated house, there's a happy Yid who's richer than any of them?" Nowhere in Rav Lipa's travels did he meet anyone as wealthy as Rav Aharon Leib, and thus he resigned himself that he wouldn't be getting his promised million dollars. However, he did ask Rav Aharon Leib if, when he traveled again to New York, if the deal was still "live," and the rosh yeshiva agreed.

OOPS, ITS GONE

On that second trip to New York, Rav Lipa ran into Rav Uri Zohar, who was one of the previous generations best known mezakei rabim. Rav Lipa told Rav Uri all about the deal he'd made with Rav Aharon Leib to find someone richer than the Rosh Yeshiva.

After a few moments, Rav Uri happily announced, "Rav Lipa, you've just won the 'lottery!' You can return to Rav Aharon Leib and tell him that you met someone richer than him. He was never part of the 'outside world,' but I came from there, and therefore I know how much richer I am. I know how much meaning and purpose lies in a Torah life verses the empty joy that occupies the "outside world." Coming from there make me wealthier than Rav Aharon Leib!"

The two then jokingly quibbled over how much percentage Rav Uri should get for helping Rav Lipa to his million dollars. Before they parted, though, Rav Uri turned to Rav Lipa and said, "You know what? I think I might be wrong. Go back and tell Rav Aharon Leib that while I originally thought I was the wealthier one, I've changed my mind and think that he's the richer one."

"I'll tell you why: Every time I come into Rav Aharon Leib's house, whatever hour it may be, I see the rosh yeshiva sitting in the same position — his body upright, his tzitzis upon him, his hat on his head, and a pillow behind his head to prop him up. Where in the entire world would you find someone who sits like that even when nobody is around? Only someone who lives with a constant awareness of Hashem's presence. That person is the richest man in the world, and there's nobody more content than him anywhere on the globe." When Rav Lipa returned to Eretz Yisrael, he admitted to Rav Aharon Leib that he hadn't found anyone as wealthy as the rosh yeshiva. (Reprinted with permission from the Zichru Toras Moshe — Shabbos Table Stories #180)

Yeshivishe Stories

The Chinuch Chaburah

R' Tzvi Moshe Schultz

Once, a mother was crossing a bridge, holding her baby girl on a pillow. Suddenly, a strong wind blew, and the mother tripped, dropping the baby into the river below. The people gasped, for they assumed that the baby was gone.

However, a miracle occurred! The pillow landed on the water first, and the baby landed directly on the pillow, and floated to safety! This little baby's name was Treina, and she grew up to be the mother of the Vilna Gaon.

Whenever Rav Chaim of Volozhin, the talmid of the Vilna Gaon saw this river, he made a special bracha of *שעשה לי נס במקום הזה!*

The Vilna Gaon

One year, there was a drought, and no esrogim could be found in all of Vilna. The leaders of the community sent a messenger to travel all around Europe, to try to find an esrog. He went from city to city, and from village to village, but to no avail. There were no esrogim to be found.

Then, just when he was about to depart, he stayed at an inn, and discovered that the innkeeper had an esrog! He offered the man an exorbitant amount of money, but he man refused. He would not part with the esrog.

Finally, the messenger pleaded that this esrog would be used in Vilna, including by the Vilna Gaon! Upon hearing that, the man said that he would agree to give up the esrog, in return for the reward in Olam Haba from the Vilna Gaon's mitzvah. The messenger was reluctant to agree to such a condition, but ultimately felt that he had no choice.

When he returned to Vilna, he was nervous to tell the Vilna Gaon that he had given away his reward for the mitzvah. But surprisingly, the Vilna Gaon was overjoyed when he heard this.

"Now," he declared, "I have the true opportunity to do the mitzvah purely lishmah!"

Think about this

A. Why did Rav Chaim of Volozhin say 'לי' if the miracle didn't happen to him?

B. Why do you think Hashem made this miracle? What does it teach us?

A. Can we also acquire love for Hashem and His Mitzvos like the Vilna Gaon?

B. Why is it better to do a mitzvah lishmah? How can this be done?

More Chinuch Opportunities:

For Mechanchim: Join the Chinuch Chaburah, and share ideas and materials with rebbeim from around the world.

Send the message "subscribe" to: chinuchchaburah@gmail.com

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Send the message "catalog" to: shabbostablesheets@gmail.com

*Hashem is
Wonderful!*

*Life is
Wonderful!*

*Klal Yisrael is
Wonderful!*

ומלאה הארץ
דעה את ד'

**SPREADING HASHEM'S
GOODNESS ALL AROUND
THE WORLD**