



The Blind Musician

The *heilege* **R' Pinchas Koritzer** *zt"l* did not enjoy visiting sick people. The nature of a *choleh* is to give more deliberate sighs and groans when he has visitors, and R' Pinchas could not stand even this small *sheker* since he had worked on himself to be extremely connected with the *middas ha'emes*.

One day, the local musician who would play at *chasunahs* became sick. This man was known as the Blind Musician on account of the fact that his eyes were always covered because of his obvious handicap. When R' Pinchas heard that the Blind Musician was not feeling well, he immediately said that he would like to be *mevaker choleh*. Everyone who knew him was surprised; this was an almost unheard of occurrence.

R' Pinchas explained: "You should know that the Yid you call the Blind

Musician is not blind and is perfectly capable of seeing with both eyes. However, his *parnassa* is to play at weddings, and he often needs to stand in a position from which he can see both the men and women's sections. He was nervous that he would be *nichshol* and see a forbidden sight, and he therefore made a *kabbalah* that he would close his eyes for his whole life. Because of this, I want to visit him on his sickbed.”

Before the Blind Musician was *niftar* he announced, "I will take one more look at this world." He opened his eyes for a second and then closed them forever.

At the *levaya*, R' Pinchas came to be *melave* the *meis* and said that he saw an “*amudah dinihora*”, a pillar of fire, traveling in front of the *niftar*.

(*Maamar Mordechai*)

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