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Happily Ever After...?

The holy Ruzhiner Rebbe zy”a once spoke to his chassidim on the importance of not speaking about unimportant or extra things before davening. Within his lecture, he told over the following story:

“There was once a *chassid* who was very strong in this area; he would never speak of worldly topics before davening. This *chassid* was a merchant, selling all kinds of merchandise. Once a year, he would travel to a market where he would purchase all of the merchandise to be sold over the coming year. In this way, he made a nice living.

One year it happened that the *chassid* was unsuccessful in selling his merchandise. Try as he might, he could not find even one willing buyer. Slowly, his financial situation deteriorated until he found himself without a penny to his name.

One morning, on the way to the *beis medrash* to *daven*, a wealthy gentile approached him with an offer. He would like to buy all of the *chassid*'s merchandise. What an offer! This would solve all of the *chassid*'s financial problems! The *chassid*, however, answered that since he still had not *davened*, he could not talk about business matters.”

The Ruzhiner paused and looked at the assembled *chassidim*. “Everyone wants to know how the story ends. Everyone wants to see that miraculous ending where the chassid does not suffer from his holy kabbalah. However, this is the end of the story; that a chassid had so much *emunah* in Hashem that he was willing to forgo the greatest business deal, even in the terrible financial straits he was in. That is the greatest ending to the story!”

This, indeed, is the correct outlook a *Yid* should have. A *Yid* should do what the *Torah* commands him to, without making *cheshbonos* of how it will pay for him. A *Yid* should be ready to take a loss in order to do the will of Hashem. Once he has attained that level of faith and trust in Hashem he will really come to see that “*ein adam shomei 'ah li u 'mafsid*”—in this world and in the next!