בס"ד

זכרו תורת משה

לעילוי נשמת ר' משה בן החבר צבי זצ"ל ור' משה יצחק בן אברהם צבי הכהן זצ"ל

פרשת קרח ה'תשפ"ו

HEARTWARMING STORIES FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE

Vol. #260

The Real Hatzalah Man

It was late at night, and the large room was wrapped in silence. Dozens of men had gathered in the local shul for *Maariv* after a long day of work.

Suddenly, as everyone began *Shemoneh Esrei,* the screech of tires pierced the stillness. The noise sent a wave of alarm through the shul. Something serious had happened outside. Being that it was a large shul and there were many people coming and going, one man, at least, was sure that his attention was not needed outside.

That man standing in prayer was Yoel*. As soon as he'd decided not to join those running out to the action, in an instant, a memory from decades earlier flashed through his mind.

When he had entered ninth grade and begun *mesivta*, his Rebbi had shared a powerful lesson with the class. "Imagine," the Rebbi had said, "that you're learning with a friend when you hear a terrible car accident outside. Your friend immediately runs out, bandages the injured driver, rushes him to the hospital, and helps save his life.

"But you don't. You stay where you are, learning as if nothing had happened. You should know, it is entirely possible that you who remained seated and continued learning Torah were he who truly saved the victim."

The Rebbi explained that Torah learning brings immeasurable blessing and protection into the world. The spiritual assistance generated through Torah accomplishes far more than we can ever see with our eyes.

Now, years later, standing in the middle of *Shemoneh Esrei*, Yoel found himself facing that very test. The sound from outside grew louder. Every instinct urged him to look.

Yet, Yoel held himself firmly in place. He reminded himself of his Rebbi's words and resolved not to break his concentration. Perhaps, he thought, the greatest help he could provide at that moment was to continue davening with complete focus.

With tremendous effort, he pushed aside his curiosity and poured himself back into his prayers. He didn't glance through the window. He simply continued speaking to Hashem.

When *Maariv* ended, Yoel walked outside to see what had happened. The scene was startling.

Two vehicles had been involved in what could easily have become a devastating head-on collision. By all accounts, it had come within a hairbreadth of causing serious injury.

Yet, *baruch Hashem*, the damage amounted to little more than a fender bender. Everyone had emerged essentially unharmed. As Yoel moved closer, he learned the identity of one of the drivers.

He stood frozen.

The person involved in the accident was none other than the grandson of the very Rebbi who had taught him that lesson so many years earlier.

Later, Yoel reflected on the remarkable chain of events: His Rebbi had likely thought he was merely sharing an inspiring thought with a group of teenage boys. He could never have imagined that decades later, one of those students would remember those words at precisely the right moment.

After a full day of work, after learning *Daf Yomi* and while standing in *Maariv*, that student would draw strength from that lesson and continue davening through a real-life emergency.

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And perhaps, in ways known only to Hashem, those prayers and that perseverance helped protect the Rebbi's own grandson.

We often underestimate the power of learning Torah and davening, especially when it is difficult. The moments when our attention is being pulled elsewhere, when distractions are strongest, and when concentration requires real effort are often the moments of our greatest accomplishment.

We may never know what our Torah, *tefillos,* and perseverance accomplish. They possess the power to help not only ourselves, but our children, our grandchildren, and countless others as well. They bring blessing into the world in ways far beyond our understanding.

So don't give up. Keep learning. Keep davening. Keep going. Every word matters, and every effort bears fruit, even if we do not see it until many years later.

The New Regulation

At times, Hashem places a person in a difficult situation for one reason alone: so that he will turn to Him and seek His help.

When **R' Avraham Englander** was a young *bochur*, returning to America after spending more than two years learning in Eretz Yisrael, he was excited to begin the next chapter of his life in Lakewood.

Before leaving, he had done what many yeshivah students do: he visited *sefarim* stores throughout Eretz Yisrael and accumulated a sizable collection of *sefarim*.

Confident that everything would fit, he carefully packed his belongings and headed to the airport. His plan seemed simple enough. The *sefarim* would go into his carry-on bag, and he would board the plane with no issues.

But when he arrived at the check-in counter, the airline representative informed him that his carry-on exceeded the weight limit.

Avraham's heart sank.

His checked luggage was already packed to capacity. There was no room to transfer even a single *sefer*. He stood there trying to think of a solution, but none existed. He was stuck.

Realizing there was nothing more he could do, Avraham silently turned to Hashem. He placed the problem entirely in His Hands and trusted that somehow a solution would emerge.

As he stood there, the representative began tapping on her keyboard. After a few moments, she looked up and asked, "Are you a student?"

"Yes," Avraham replied.

A smile crossed her face. "In that case, you're entitled to an additional piece of luggage. You can check your carry-on under the plane at no extra charge."

Avraham could hardly believe what he was hearing. In no time, the problem that had seemed completely unsolvable disappeared.

Later, he mentioned the incident to his travel agent. The agent was puzzled.

"There is no such policy," he told him. "El Al has never had a rule allowing students an extra suitcase free of charge."

The more they investigated, the clearer it became that what had happened could not be explained through normal procedures.

At the very moment when Avraham found himself with nowhere to turn, he had turned only to Hashem. And Hashem responded.

Sometimes, Hashem creates the predicament solely so that we will recognize where our help truly comes from. When every natural avenue closes and a person places his trust entirely in Hashem, he often discovers that the One Who created the problem will create the solution.

Edited by: Binyamin Lieb

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