

A Joke With A Lesson

Two people came to a Rabbi to find out who was right in an argument. The first man explained his side for ten minutes. When he finished, the Rabbi said, "It seems you're right."

Before the Rabbi could say another word, the second man cried, "Rabbi, that's not what happened!" He then spent the next twenty minutes telling a completely different version of the story.

The Rabbi listened carefully and then said, "You seem completely right."

The Rebbeztzin, who had been listening from the kitchen, walked in and said, "Rabbi, they can't both be right!"

The Rabbi smiled, looked at her, and said, "You're right, too..."

What's The Lesson? Not every disagreement has to be won. Sometimes the smartest thing is to give in for the sake of peace.

Short Stories and Inspiration.

A person once came to the Chofetz Chaim ztl and said, "We've been waiting so long for Mashiach already. If he didn't come until now, then maybe we should stop waiting?"

The Chofetz Chaim said, "Just the opposite! If you lost a very big check of \$100,000 between 400 other checks, you would go through every check until you found the right one, right?"

What would you tell someone who said, "You've already gone through 350 checks and still didn't find it; I guess it's not here. Maybe just give up, stop looking?" You would tell him, "If I didn't find it until now, then I must be getting so much closer!"

"The same is with Moshiach," the Chofetz Chaim said. "If he didn't come till now, then he's only getting so much closer!"

What's The Lesson? GOOD NEWS!!! Mashiach is coming! He's Coming any day now!

This connects to Shabbos Nachamu:

We celebrate that even though we don't have a Beis HaMikdash, we believe the third Beis HaMikdash is coming. Yidden never give up! We look ahead, and we think positively.

Because He Loves us!

There was once a famous artist known for painting the most beautiful pictures. One day, he climbed a very tall mountain with one of his students to take in a breathtaking view and paint it right then and there.

When they reached the top, the artist immediately got to work. Every few minutes, he would look at the beautiful view and then return to his painting. As the sun began to set, the view became even more stunning.

The artist was overcome by its beauty and said that he had a new idea for what would be the greatest painting he had ever created. Completely absorbed in the scene, he began walking backward while keeping his eyes fixed on the sky.

The student warned his teacher to be careful because he was getting very close to the edge of the mountain cliff. But the artist barely heard him. He was so taken by the view that he repeated, "This will be the greatest painting I've ever made."

The student called out again and again, then started shouting, but the artist still didn't respond. Finally, the student grabbed the painting his teacher had spent the last few hours working on and tore it up into pieces.

The artist turned around in shock. "What did you do? Why would you do that?"

The student replied, "I just saved your life. If I hadn't torn apart your painting, you would have walked right off the cliff."

What's The Lesson? Sometimes Hashem "tears apart" something special in our lives to wake us up and keep us from falling into spiritual darkness or spiritual sleep. We don't always know the reason, but we believe it's for our good! It's from love.

This Connects to Shabbos Nachamu:

Hashem "ripped" and "destroyed" the Beis HaMikdash not to cause us pain for nothing, but to wake us up. We celebrate Shabbos Nachamu, which shows us that Hashem still hasn't given up on us and still believes we can rebuild the third Beis HaMikdash! (Based on an idea from R' Shimshon Pincus zt"l.)

ת"ד

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YEAR 2 WEEK 44

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This is not meant to rule practical *halachah*; rather, it's to show the sweetness of learning.

Based on R' Yitzchak Zilberstein's *seforim*

Q. A Special Bar-Mitzvah!

Eli was walking home after a long, hard day when suddenly someone stopped him.

"Hey, Rabbi, I'm a photographer, and I'm supposed to take pictures of a boy who is celebrating his bar mitzvah today. He's having trouble putting on those black box things. You know what I mean? Could you please help him?"

Eli wasn't sure what to do. It was already night, and he knew that tefillin are not allowed to be worn at night, but he decided to go in and see.

As Eli walked into the hall, he realized that this family was far from frum. It seemed this might be the only time the boy would ever put on tefillin.

Eli looked at the bar mitzvah boy. He looked so innocent and pure. He was holding his tefillin so carefully, almost proudly, excited that today he was becoming a bar mitzvah, but knew nothing about what that really meant. He clearly wanted to do the right thing, but he had no idea how even to put them on.

Eli felt sad for the boy and wasn't sure what to do. This one picture can become much more than just another bar mitzvah photograph.

Many years from now, it may still be hanging on the wall in the family's home, and as a grown man, he would walk past it, stop for a moment, and remember the day a frum Yid helped him with his tefillin and the feeling of wearing it.

Maybe he would start to think about what it means to be a Jew and may help him come closer to Hashem and become frum.

But then Eli thought, "How could he help someone do something that the halachah does not allow?"

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!

A. Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmak!!!

Eli could, and should, help the boy put on his tefillin.

1) Technically, wearing tefillin at night is not forbidden.

Chazal say that one should not wear tefillin at night because a person might fall asleep while wearing them, which would be disrespectful. (See Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 302.)

In this case, the bar mitzvah boy would clearly not be going to sleep while wearing the tefillin during the photoshoot. This bar mitzvah boy was trying to do something good; it was an act of respect and love for the mitzvah.

3) Many *baalei teshuvah* have said that the first time they put on tefillin made a lasting memory on their hearts and influenced their spiritual journey to become more frum, so a photo could become a very meaningful reminder.

4) During the years of the Holocaust, when Jews were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps, there were situations where the only chance to put on tefillin was at night.

One of the rabbanim ruled that this was permitted for the same reason: it was an expression of deep respect and love for the mitzvah, allowing them to fulfill it even in the most difficult times.

We Have A Special Mission To Do!

The Yidden were freed from the Nazis right before Shavuot. The Klausenberger Rebbe ztl had suffered throughout the war together with a group of Yidden who were now together with him for Yom Tov.

At one point during the Yom Tov meal, the Rebbe broke out in a cry: "Father in Heaven! This is not what we had in mind. We were waiting so long to be freed, but not to be freed by the Americans. We were waiting to be freed by Eliyahu Hanavi and Mashiach!"

The Rebbe repeated this again and again, and everyone started crying.

Then the Rebbe said some words of chizuk. The Rebbe said, "We must again start learning Torah, as that is the only thing that can ensure the future of Klal Yisroel." (*Practically speaking, time has proven this. Any community where there was no Torah learned, no cheder, or yeshivah, the next generation did not continue to keep the mitzvos.*)

The Rebbe continued and said, "Especially now, after we just saw and witnessed what the non-Jews are capable of doing to us, we should strengthen ourselves in Torah even more than ever!"

"Now that we have seen the bad nature of the non-Jews and what they have no problem doing to another human being, we can appreciate much more who we are, that Hashem chose us from all the nations! We can understand how different we are and that more is expected of us."

Then the Rebbe said some powerful words, "The Ribono Shel Olam will always have His minyan. His group of Yidden who will help rebuild Klal Yisroel. Hashem's plan will continue. I just hope that we will have the zchus to be part of that group in rebuilding Klal Yisroel."

What's The Lesson?

We need to remember and appreciate who we are and what we can accomplish!

This Connects To Shabbos Nachamu:

This could be the reason for the celebration of Shabbos Nachamu: it's that even though we still do not have a Beis Hamikdash, the fact that we, Klal Yisroel, who are alive today and are part of the frum Jewish world, are still around shows us that Hashem chose us to be part of His group that should rebuild His nation and Beis Hamikdash!

We need to celebrate this and do our part to help rebuild the Beis Hamikdash. We must make sure not to miss the opportunity!

May Hashem help us hear soon that we are free, not by the Americans, but by Eliyahu Hanavi and Mashiach!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

In this week's parsha, Parshat Va'etchanan, we learn about the mitzvah of *Krias Shema*. Question: Why Do We Cover Our Eyes When We Say "Shema Yisroel, Hashem Elokeinu, Hashem Echad" during *Krias Shema*?

Last week's Geshmaka Question:

The fire that began burning the Beis Hamikdash was lit on the ninth of Av, which is when we sit and cry on Tisra B'Av. However, the fire continued to burn, and the Beis Hamikdash was fully destroyed the next day. Why, then, do we cry on the day the fire began rather than on the day the Beis Hamikdash was actually destroyed?

Shuly Klein Answer: We focus on why the Beis

Hamikdash had to be destroyed and the sins that it happens, because that is when the pain is felt most strongly.

C.F. Answer: My grandfather told me that because of the nature of pain, a person eventually gets used to it and it becomes less painful. Therefore, we sit right when it happens, because that is when the pain is felt most strongly.

Text your answer in by Sunday to (347) 669 0369 or by email to torahisweeter@gmail.com

Why Are We Happy This Shabbos?

Yechiel always told everyone that he had the worst luck and the worst life and that everything always went wrong.

One day, Yechiel went to his job and was loading up a train filled with refrigerated food. He put away all the food, and all of a sudden, while Yechiel was still inside the train, the door closed. He started banging, but no one heard him; he was locked inside.

His phone had no battery left. Yechiel knew the train ride would take a few hours, and he was stuck in a fridge that was a very cold. He took out a piece of paper and started writing a goodbye letter to his family.

He wrote, "You see, I was always right. I have the worst luck in the world, and here I am going to die in a fridge! That's my life, always bad." And he continued to write and negative lines, then wished them goodbye, and said, "I hope your life will be better than my sad life."

When the train arrived, they found him lying on the floor, not responding. They quickly took him to the hospital.

And the doctors said, "This is very interesting. He has all the signs of hypothermia (which is what happens when someone stays in the cold for too long and can be very dangerous). But here's the strange part: the fridge broke on the train the day before and wasn't even working..."

What's The Lesson?

Yes, if one thinks negatively, they will find something negative even when it isn't there! There's always something good we can focus on. That's why we say *Gam zu Itovah*!

This Connects To Shabbos Nachamu:

Question: What is the celebration of Shabbos Nachamu?

Answer: Chazal say (Makkos 24b), when the rabbis saw a fox coming out of the place of the Beis Hamikdash, they started crying, but R' Akiva was laughing, and they asked him why.

R' Akiva explained, "Now that I see the prophecy of destruction fulfilled so completely, I know with certainty that the prophecy of rebuilding will also be fulfilled. That is why I am happy."

The rabbis said to R' Akiva, "Akiva, you have comforted us!"

This is a reason to celebrate! This is why it's called *Shabbos Nachamu*: it's a *Shabbos of comfort (nachamu)*, knowing Hashem will never give up on us, and Klal Yisroel will never be wiped out! There's always a positive way to look at things!

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