

The Jewish Weekly

In Loving memory of

Hershy Weiss

הבחור ישראל צבי

בן משה הי"ו

י"ט מנחם אב תשפ"א

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

Go To My Son-In-Law For Advice

By Rabbi Sholom DovBer Avtzon

A Rav who was a student of the Munkatcher Rebbe, came to the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe (Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson, zt"l, 1880-1950, known as the Frierdiker Rebbe) shortly after WWII, and asked him two things:

Rebbe, I know that you were extremely close to my Rebbe the Munkatcher (Rabbi Chaim Elazar Spira, zt"l, also known as the Minchat Eliezer, 1868-1937), and being that I can't ask my Rebbe, I came to ask you. Please give me a brachah that I should have the strength to rebuild my life and start anew. My wife and children were killed in the war, together with many of my extended family, and I want a brachah to be able to rebuild and continue.

Secondly, if I am to continue, where should I settle?

The Frierdiker Rebbe gave him a brachah to have the strength to continue and then said, concerning the second point, go downstairs and ask my son-in-law for advice.

Following these instructions, the Rav came downstairs and knocked on the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson's door, and told him that the Frierdiker Rebbe instructed/advised him to ask him the second question as to where he should settle.

The Rebbe replied, I heard that many Jews from Hungary are settling in Argentina. Being that you are a Rav and a Talmid Chacham (a Torah scholar), I am positive that they would welcome you and you will be matzliach (successful).

Taking the Rebbe's advice, he went to Argentina, and like the Rebbe predicted, the community was thrilled and honored that such a prominent Rav was considering to settle in their community and they made him as comfortable as they were able to.

The Rav, being a true Rav, set out to establish a school and other things that he saw as a necessity for a Jewish community, and the community supported all his efforts. Everyone was satisfied with the arrangements.

Some years passed and one day a woman came to the Rav in tears; her wonderful daughter met a young man in college and wants to marry him, even though he is not Jewish. All of her entreaties, promises and threats fell on deaf ears. While in general the daughter was extremely respectful, and would do anything her mother asked, this was the exception.

The Rav called up the daughter and began a conversation. The young lady responded respectfully to all of his questions, but as soon as he broached the sensitive topic, she replied, there is nothing to discuss, I decided that I am going to marry him, and hung up. When he redialed, she didn't answer.

The mother is sitting there and crying, and the Rav doesn't know what he can do.

After a few moments, he remembered that the Frierdiker Rebbe instructed him, that if he needs guidance/ advice, he should speak to his son in law, whom is now the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

So he calls the Rebbe's secretary, Rabbi Hodakov and tells him the story, and concludes, the Rebbe's father-in-law, the Frierdiker Rebbe told me that when I need to know what to do, I should ask his son-in-law, the Rebbe.

He then hears the Rebbe instructing Rabbi Hodakov to tell him, the Rav should tell the young lady, that there is a Jew in Brooklyn who cannot sleep, because of what she is planning on doing.

Hearing this, the Rav was uncertain on how this will work out, as well as how this will solve the problem. The young lady refuses to talk to him, so how is he going to give her this message. And if she does hear it, how would that affect her.

However, he was a talmid of the Munkatcher and knew that if a tzaddik tells you to do something, you do it, without trying to understand it.

He called the young lady, and to his surprise and delight, she picked up the phone. Knowing that he has her attention for only a few moments, he said to her, "I received a very important message from New York to give to you, and it will take only a few minutes. Please come to my office as soon as you can."

The young lady, said she will be there in around a half hour and came.

The Rav told her, after our conversation, I called a very righteous Rabbi, and he told me to tell you that there is a Jew in Brooklyn who cannot sleep, because of what you are planning on doing.

Hearing this she became furious and declared, you deceived me. I know no Rabbi in Brooklyn, and no Rabbi in Brooklyn knows me, this is a lie. There is nothing to talk about.

Seeing that she was about to leave, he told her, I will show you a picture of the Rabbi that told me this. Saying that he left the room, noting that he will return in a moment. Going to another office, he took a frame with a picture of the Rebbe and brought it back, saying, this is that person.

Seeing the picture, the young lady began to tremble, and said; the last few nights, this man is coming to me in a dream and instructing me not to marry that person, and warning me of the consequences that would befall us, if we marry.

I never saw that Jew and didn't know who he is, so I dismissed it. But now that you tell me that he told you this, I see there is truth to it.

She then broke up and the following year married a Jewish man.

Reprinted from an email of The Weekly Story.

It Once Happened...

Give Credit Where Credit's Not Due

By Avrohom Barash

There was a wealthy man in the town of Kovno named Shraga Feivel Frank. A prominent businessman from Aleksot once approached him for a substantial loan, naming a date by which he expected to repay it. R' Shraga Feivel cheerfully lent him the money.

After some time passed, the loan was due, but the man did not come to repay it; R' Shraga Feivel said nothing about it, as was his wont in such cases. However, at one point he himself needed a certain sum of money, and his wife Golda recalled that this businessman owed them a large debt. She approached him and requested that he repay the loan, which she was certain he was then able to do, telling him that they needed the money.

The man refused her request, answering with such impertinence that the insulted woman returned home very upset. With much effort her husband calmed her down, but the incident was far from over.

Some time later the businessman appeared at the Frank home, but not with the money he owed. Instead, he told R' Shraga Feivel that he wished to borrow more money, which he promised to pay back together with the first sum by a certain date. Taken aback by this brazen request, R' Shraga Feivel told the man he would have to consider the matter before replying, and would inform him later of his decision.

When, Mrs. Frank heard of the man's temerity, she asked her husband incredulously, "How can you even consider such a thing after he was so unreliable the first time, and behaved with such ingratitude and impudence! I am sure you'll never see this money either."

"My dear wife," replied R' Shraga Feivel, "are we then any better than this man? Every year on Rosh Hashana we ask G-d to forgive our sins and accept our prayers. We always say earnestly, 'G-d, this year we'll be good!' But we backslide and sin again the next year. Then how can we come to ask Him once again to forgive us? What happened this past year - didn't we come to Him last year with the same request and the same promise?"

"But now I can really say it! This Jew borrowed money and also promised to pay it back, but instead of repaying me he asked to borrow more - and I will give it to him! I will now have some merit in the eyes of G-d, that He should do the same for me, measure for measure, just as I have done for this man."

In the face of such logic, Golda could only bow her head in agreement to extend the loan.

Reprinted from "Gut Voch" by Mesorah Publications.



Y-GRAPHICS

Shabbat Times - Parshat Nitzavim

	Candle Lighting	Motzei Shabbat	Motzei Shabbat ר"ת
Jerusalem	6:25	7:37	8:16
Tel Aviv	6:40	7:39	
Haifa	6:32	7:39	
Be'er Sheva	6:42	7:38	



Saved by Shemittah

By Rabbi Yoel Gold

If there was ever a picture in the dictionary of a Jewish farmer, it would be Ira Zimmerman. From a very, very young age, he was going to work with his father in the fields. He became a tractor driver and this is what he did for a living, he would use his combine harvester to harvest fields.

Ira has a passion for using his farming skills to promote Torah and Mitzvot, which is why he volunteers his time to harvest the wheat for Matzah Shmurah every year. He also volunteers a ton of his time and efforts for Keren Hashviit, an organization that helps farmers keep the laws of Shemittah.

Seven years ago - which was the 6th year of the Shemittah cycle - it turns out that that year it rained in Israel very late into the harvesting season.

All the center of Israel was no good for Matzah Shemurah and the north was also raining in the fields, so the only option left was to go to the south of Israel.

Fortunately, Ira and his friends, found a field in the south of Israel, next to the Gaza border. The only problem was, that no farmer wants to work in a field next to the Gaza border. The tension between Israel and Gaza was palpable. They were at the brink of war.

But then because Ira grew up in that region, he knew the region well and even though it is a little hard, a little risky, sometimes they shoot over the border and sometimes they throw stones, he decided to do it and just keep going.

The problem is that the Kibbutznik, the owner of the farm site, said, you can not take it now, it's not ready yet, it's still a little green, you need to wait another one and a half to two weeks. It was getting too close to Rosh Hashanah and the start of the Shemittah year, so Ira decided that they can not wait as next year is Shemittah so they need double the usual amount and they were worried that the rain may come and if it starts to rain the whole field is useless, so they will take it all now.

They worked overtime from dawn to dusk from sunrise to sunset. They tried their best to harvest the field as fast as possible as they didn't want any rain to ruin any of their chances to take the wheat to be used for Matzah Shemurah. In



13 terrorists came out of the tunnel marked in red (photo courtesy IDF media unit)

addition they needed double the amount of wheat they would usually harvest, this year they would need to take three thousand tons.

While they were in the field on the tractor, Ira remembers his partners saying that he can feel the ground beneath them shaking. It felt kind of unstable. But it wasn't like something unusual because it's a field with a big truck, there are holes, it's understandable to feel a little unstable.

Within two or three days, they managed to harvest the entire field. They sent shiploads of the wheat to all the major cities in Israel for those bakeries to have for Matzah Shmurah and also to store away for next Pesach for Shmittah.

Two days later, that specific field was all over the news.

Thirteen terrorists were caught trying to penetrate the Sufa Kibbutz. The Hamas terrorists dug a tunnel and they came up exactly where Ira and his partners were working with the combine harvester for the Matzah Shmurah.

The terrorists were hoping that that week the wheat would have ripened and grown in the field so it would cover them, so they wouldn't be seen. But because Ira and his partner risked their lives by working overtime to harvest every strand of wheat for Matzah Shmurah, and to store for the next year due to Shemittah, the terrorists were exposed right away.

The Israeli Defense Force was able to see them in the cameras and right away they were able to kill them.

There is only one Mitzvah that Hashem gives an explicit promise of "וציוויתי את ברכתי" - He will enforce His blessing" unto those who keep the Mitzvah of Shemittah.

It was thanks to the Mitzvah of Shemittah, that this miracle was able to happen.

Transcribed from a video of Yoel Gold.

N.B. This Rosh Hashanah 5782 starts the year of Shemittah.

The Passuk in this week's Parsha tells us the following words, כי המצוה הזאת אשר אנכי מצוה היום לא נפלאה היא ממך ולא רחוקה היא, loosely translated, "This Mitzvah, that I am commanding you today to do, it is not difficult for you and it is not out of your reach" כי קרוב אליך הדבר מאד "Because it is very close to you" בפיך ובלבבך לעשותו "With your mouth and your heart you can achieve it."

The Ramban explain that the Mitzvah the Possuk is referring to, is the Mitzvah of Teshuva. Dave borrowed money from his very wealthy father Jack so that he could start his business. The loan was on a one year loan, it was to be paid up within one year. As the year was slowly coming to an end, and the business is off the ground and doing quite well, now it came time to either pay up the loan or invest so the business can grow, what could he do with the money? What should he do with the money? So he thinks, well my father is very smart businessman, and he knows me better than I can even imagine, perhaps I should go discuss it with him, and ask him what to do. On the other hand his father is the one he owes the money to. Dave is stuck and can't decide what to do. Jack calls his son in to dinner one evening and says "Dave I see something is bothering you, What's going on?" Dave turns red responds "Dad, no way, I can't talk to you about this, I'm extremely embarrassed" Jack asked "what did you do already" Dave responds "It is not what I did, well it kind of is, but more of what should I do" Jack says "Well what is the dilemma?" Dave responds "Dad, this one I just can't discuss with you" Jack says "Dave, I am your father, I love you dearly, nothing you say or do can ever change that, there is nothing in the world that you can not discuss with me, so lay it on me." Dave gets up and gives his father a big hug, and tells him "remember last year I borrowed money from you to start my business, and the deal was that I would have to pay it back within one year, well that one year is almost up, I have the money to return, but If I could only use that money to invest into the next part of the business, it would make the whole profit margin jump like crazy, and I'll be able to give you even better returns." Jack looks Dave in the eye "Dave, you are so lucky I am your father, and I love you I'll tell you what, I am going to give you the same amount that I gave you last year, but remember it is on loan, make me proud son, I love you"

As we approach Rosh Hashana, and the loan of life that was given to us a year ago, is coming up, our investment rates have not been the greatest, like our friend Dave, yet we have to remember that the One who gave us this loan is Avinu before He is Malkeinu, He loves us to pieces, and all He wants is for us to come back and sit and talk to Him and show Him His returns. This takes control of your heart and your mouth and connecting on the holy days that are upon us with our dear Father who loves us so much.

So let's make Hashem proud and let's pray with all our hearts, for our soldiers and healthcare professionals, and Chevra Kadisha members worldwide, and for those who need healing, shidduchim, children and parnassah and may we be blessed to have the most awesome, gorgeous, beautiful, peaceful, healthy, amazing, relaxed, spiritual, loving, sweet Shabbat, שנה טובה and כתיבה וחתימה טובה, ומתוקה.

The Jewish Weekly's Yossi PARSHA FACTS

NUMBER OF MITZVOT: None

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 40
NUMBER OF WORDS: 657
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 2575

HAFTORA:
Yeshayahu 61:10 - 63:9 (שש ואיש) (this is the last of the seven Haftorot, [the Seven Haftorot of Consolation] that precede Rosh Hashanah).

This week we study Chapter 5 and 6 of Pirkei Avot.

Rosh HaShana is Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 7 & 8.
Tzom Gedaliah is Thursday, Sept. 9.



A Time of Reflection and Repentance