



From the desk of
MORDECHAI MALKA
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Founder and President of Or Hamelech Institutions
Member of Chief Rabbinate of Israel



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Office of the Rabbinate of Elad, Rosh HaAyin and Herzelia

Religious Court of Elad * Batei Hora'ah * Religious Services * Marriage Licensing * Kashrut * Mikvaot * Eiruvim

TORAT

Parashat Matot-Masei

HAMELECH

City of Refuge

Someone who kills inadvertently goes to the City of Refuge and remains there until the Kohen Gadol passes away. Therefore, mothers of Kohanim Gedolim would provide food and clothing for inmates of the Arei Miklat so that they would not pray for the early demise of their children. It seems that their prayers could be proved effective. Why is that? Because the Kohanim Gedolim should have davened that the people in his generation not stumble in matters that are life-threatening.

No Delay

A kallah was scheduled to get married on Tu B'Av. This kallah lived with her father, a widower. The father contracted an illness and asked his daughter to postpone the wedding for a year. He could not imagine managing on his own were she to move out.

Her chatan told her to ask a rav and whatever he says to do, they'll do.

She asked Rav Chaim Kanievsky and he said: we learn from this parsha that she should get married straight away. Where? If the wedding is postponed, we must be concerned that somewhere in the recesses of their heart, the

young couple will pray for the father to pass on so that they can move on with their lives. So it is in the father's best interests for them to marry sooner.

Crushed Feet

So it's not worth having someone be upset at you. It could make your life miserable. We will give a few examples to illustrate this point.

There was a family who lived on a moshav with their three children: Shachar, Ofek and Nitzan. One day, Nitzan fell from somewhere high and both of her legs were put in a cast. A re-assessment would be done two weeks later and it would be decided if surgery should be done immediately or after being in a cast for a few months.

A day or two before the appointment, Nitzan's parents began thinking if perhaps they had wronged someone. It came to mind that one particular neighbor was giving them a cold shoulder recently. So they went over and asked to speak to them.

They asked, "What do you have against us?"

The answer was quick to come. "You wrote against us in the recent local newspaper. You embarrassed us publicly."



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"Please forgive us."

"No."

Nitzan's parents begged and even cried.

The neighboring husband said to his wife, "You see they are sincere. Just forgive them."

At that, she said, "You know what? I forgive you with all my heart."

That taken care of, they returned home and told Shachar and Ofek that they could come to the appointment, too. Something big was going to happen.

On the big day, the whole family showed up at the orthopedist's office.

Off came the cast and Nitzan was sent for x-rays. Nitzan returned and the x-rays were sent to the doctor's computer.

The doctor looked at his screen incredulously and called two more doctors in. The doctors all looked at the screen from all angles and whispered to each other.

Finally, the orthopedist told the family, "I never saw anything like this in my life! And I'm in this field for years! Miracles happen for you religious people. This girl can put on sneakers and go home. The x-rays from two weeks ago show crushed feet. Today's x-rays show healthy feet."

Baking Matzah

When R' Yoel Circus finished writing his sefer, Bayit Chadash, he sent a copy to R' Natan, the author of Megaleh Amukot, to ask for a haskama. It was Erev Pesach and R' Natan was busy baking matzot. He told the messenger to put down the sefer and he'll look at it at his convenience.

The messenger returned to Rabbi Circus and Rabbi Circus inquired as to how he was received. Rabbi Circus felt bad that his work was not received more enthusiastically. Rabbi Circus was pained.

Rabbi Natan was a holy man. He sensed, from a distance, a wakeup call, telling him that he ought to appease Rabbi Circus. He went to his home immediately and appeased him.

When to Ask

R' Dovid of Karlin (known as Reb Doodle) was very smart and very short. He was smart because he learned so much. But why was he so short?

When he was a young boy, he attended a shiur of R' Dovid Tebly, for lamdanim. Little Doodle listened to the shiur and shouted out a question which undermined the whole buildup of the shiur.

Reb Dovid Tebly went over and kissed the boy on the head, telling him, "You asked a very good question, but it was very poor timing. You do not



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ask such questions in the middle of a shiur. It could embarrass the speaker.”

Reb Doodle grew up to be a great Talmid Chacham. But he remained the same height and attributed it to having pained R' Dovid Tebly.

Off to Siberia

Reb Chatzkel Abramsky relates: I once voiced my opinion on an issue in which Reb Yitzchak Elchanan Spector held differently. That very day, the Bolsheviks came to town. I ran to hide in someone's house. I asked if they had any sefarim. They had exactly one sefer – a sefer of Reb Yitzchak Elchanan! I opened up to the page where R' Yitzchak Elchanan's view on that matter was explained thoroughly.

I took this as a message that I had spoken disrespectfully against him. I knew I would get caught that day. Sure enough, I was arrested and sent to Siberia.

One night, after having been there for many long months, I dreamt and saw R' Yitzchak Elchanan looking at me and smiling. I woke up and understood that that day, I would be set free. And so it was.

Wash Away

There was a couple who had no children for a number of years. They asked their rebbe for a

bracha and he told them that it seemed that someone was upset with them.

So they tried to think about what it could be. Finally, the husband remembered that years earlier, he had travelled with some friends on a bus to a wedding. It was a long bus ride and one of the bachurim went to sleep, but not before getting ready for himself a bottle of water and a basin with which to wash his hands upon wake up. This was a great act of piety, to ensure proper netilat yodayim even mid-travel.

But our “hero” noticed and played a prank; he took away the water. When the sleeping fellow awoke, he looked around for his water. He did not like to talk before washing his hands, so he just said, “Nu! Nu!” until the driver got perturbed. Everybody laughed and then they gave back the water.

So this husband went to search for that bachur and beg for forgiveness. The bachur remembered it clearly. At first, he refused to forgive him. But after asking again and again, saying he was sent by the rebbe, the man finally forgave him.

Let's do our best not to offend others. And if we did, let us ask for forgiveness. Let us also be very forgiving of others.

**Have a Great Shabbat,
Mordechai Malka**