

HASHGACHA PRATIS

Inspirational messages and contemporary stories of hashgacha
From the Hashgacha Pratis Hotline



Parshiyos Vayakhel Pekudei - Vayikra 5781 ■ Issue 61

HEART TO HEART

Based on shiurim in
Duties of the Heart, Shaar Bitachon, given on the Hotline

The Secret to Wealth

The Gemara in Taanis (9a) tells of an interesting dialogue between R' Yochanan and his young nephew. The boy asked him to explain the possuk "עשר תעשר" – isn't it redundant? R' Yochanan answered him with the famous explanation, עשר בשביל עשר שתתעשר – give maaser so that you will become wealthy. The boy was surprised, being that there is no such promise regarding any other mitzvah. We do mitzvos because Hashem commanded us to do so.

"How do you know that this promise is true?" the boy asked.

"Try it yourself!" R' Yochanan responded.

The boy persisted, "But are we allowed to 'test' Hashem in this way?"

R' Yochanan proved to him that this is indeed permitted from another possuk, "Bring all the maaser to the storage house, and test Me in this, says Hashem, if I don't open for you the windows of the Heavens and empty upon you abundant blessing, without end." (Malachi 2:10). What does it mean when it says that the blessing will be in abundance עד בלי די? It means that your lips will be tired from saying די- enough!

We speak with our tongues, with the mouth open, yet the explanation refers to our "lips" tiring from saying-"enough blessing." The extent of Hashem's blessing to those who give maaser will be such that even a person's lips will grow dry from repeating, again, and again- enough blessing!

This is a very unique promise. We are taught that we don't receive reward for mitzvos in this world (Kiddushin 39b), but this is an exception.

The Chovos Halevavos adds another point. He says a person should conceal these actions as much as

possible. In this way, his reward will be much greater than if people know about it. (Ch. 4, part 5)

The same is true for all mitzvos between man and his fellow. The tremendous blessing we are promised for tzedaka, in this world and the next, will be magnified if we perform the mitzvah privately! I don't know exactly what he means, if the bracha will be in dollars or in quality, or maybe that the person will enjoy the wealth in tranquility. Many people have a lot of money, but they also have a lot of tzaros. As much as they make, they have to pay lawyers, doctors, and all kinds of professionals to help them through their challenges. They might become so disgusted with all the headaches their money causes them, that they would rather not have any of it!

This might explain a mystery about tzedaka. Two wealthy people may both give equal amounts to tzedaka, yet one suffers from complications in his business dealings and elsewhere, while the other man enjoys peace of mind. Why should this be? According to the Chovos Halevavos, the answer might be in the way they give it – one gives it secretly, while the other does not. Concealing one's acts of tzedaka results in extra bracha and reward, which can mean, perhaps, that the person will use his money for good and happy things, rather than dealing with angry competitors, illness, and legal problems.

The more you give, the more you get. The more one's acts of charity are concealed, the better! May we merit to be on the giving end, and enjoy the blessing of Hashem, עד בלי די.

(From shiur 169 on Shaar Habitachon)

FROM THE EDITOR

Why the Professor?

I met a sweet young man recently, the joy of youth evident on his face. Once we started talking, however, and he told me his *tzaros*, I almost cried. Who would know? Unfortunately, many people are carrying a big *peckel* of *tzaros* in their lives. Hashem should help us!

But we don't have to collapse under the strain of our *peckel*. Along with every challenge, Hashem provides the ability to handle the challenge. The Torah is full of solutions. The Ralbag states: "The ways of the Torah are very pleasant and sweet for man. All the pathways of the Torah grant peace to the body and soul, and all of them promote health for the body and soul." (Mishlei 3).

Rav Dovid Kletzkin *shlit"z*, in one of his shiurim on Shaar Habitachon, quoted the famous therapist Reb Shmuel Yaakov Eidels, who once spoke to Professor Shapira, who was among the foremost experts in mental health 65 years ago. Dr. Shapiro told him that he was puzzled about something.

"I understand why gentiles and irreligious Jews come to me with their problems. But why would a religious Jew need me? Shaar Habitachon can solve all his issues! It's the most effective medicine – and cheapest, too!"

Bitachon enhances our mental health. The Malbim writes this on the possuk in Tehillim (25:5), "בך בטחו ונתפלטימו" – "they trusted and they were saved." He explains that bitachon causes two benefits. First of all, "They trusted," resulting in peace of mind, and moreover "they were saved" – meaning, they had a *yeshuah* as well.

Rabbosai, this is tried and tested. Bitachon brings many benefits beyond the actual *yeshua*. Devote a few minutes a day to working on bitachon. Listen to the Hotline as a set part of your day, so you don't forget about emunah and bitachon. Ten of thousands of listeners report that this has changed their lives, providing a new lease of serenity, happiness, and hatzlacha!

Try it yourself!

Good Shabbos
Pinchas Shefer

The shiur is aired on Mon. and Thurs. - menu 4 (Yiddish and Hebrew)

You can also join the many Jews who have changed their lives, by calling:

North America 605-31-31-719 • In England 0330-390-0489 • In Belgium 323-369-6766 • In Israel 02-301-1300
In South Africa 87-551-8521 • In Argentina 3988-4031 • In Ukraine 380-947-100-633

• Kav Hashgacha Pratis for women
(Yiddish and Hebrew) - Menu 4

THE HAND OF HASHEM

Amazing stories of hashgacha pratis, as told on the hotline

Have a Seat!

Reb Yehuda Klein of Beitar Illit:

One morning, my brother called me up and asked, "Do you want a couch? Someone gave it to me to give away."

Do I want a couch? Sure! I wasn't even thinking about buying one yet, until my budget allows for it. He hung up and called back a half an hour later. "Okay, we put them in the entrance of your building. Enjoy!"

I went down and discovered that there were really *three* couches there! I didn't have room in my apartment for three couches. If only they would have brought me some more floor space, too! So I took one and then had to find a home for the other two.

My wife knocked on a neighbor's door. "Hi, do you want a free couch?"

"Do I want a couch?!" The woman there looked like she was about to faint, or maybe burst out singing and dancing. "Yes, yes, yes – how did you know?"

My wife had no idea what she was talking about, of course, so the neighbor filled her in on the details of the hashgacha of the moment.

For a long time they had wanted to buy a couch but couldn't afford it. They thought of all sorts of plans, and settled on selling a stroller that they didn't use anymore. They put up ads for it, asking for 1200 shekels. After a while, someone finally called up asking about it, but when they told her the price she started to haggle with them.

My neighbor said, "Sorry, I can't get any less than this. We need the money for something else."

The caller didn't give up. She told her that they desperately needed the stroller for their sick child, and just didn't have that kind of money available. My neighbor's heart went out to them, and she decided to be *mevater* on their entire plan. She told the lady that she could have the stroller – for free! That was difficult, as you can imagine, but they gave up their couch to do a big mitzvah.

THE SAME DAY, my wife knocked on their door. "Do you want a free couch?"

Hashem repaid them very quickly for their mesiras nefesh for others, and they didn't lose their couch at all. They got both a couch and the tremendous reward of chessed!

(Bitachon Yomi, Monday, Parshas Tetzaveh #107)

Gifts from Heaven

We live in Ashdod. My three year old son is so far an only child, so he gets basically everything he wants. A short while after we bought him a tricycle, he saw his friend got a scooter. He came home and asked me to buy him one, too. I told him I would love to, but we couldn't afford it right then. But I didn't leave it at that, and I told him that Hashem has all the money in the world, so he could ask Him for it.

My son accepted this with his pure heart, and immediately davened, "Hashem, please give me a scooter!"

The following week, my wife went with her mother to place an order for their clothing store. It happened to be a large order, and the distributor met them in the office of his other line of business, toy stores. On the way out, my wife noticed a scooter on display, and she stopped to check it out. As I said, we weren't going to buy it just then, but out of curiosity she asked the distributor how much it costs.

"Ah, you want it? Take it as a gift for your kids!"

And so my wife came home that day with a scooter! My son was overjoyed, not only because of the scooter, but because Hashem had answered his request.

"Look, Abba, Hashem sent me a present!"

If you See, It's not Difficult to Trust

The story in issue 56 about the man who bought mezuzos as a segulah to get an apartment really affected me. The chiddush is that usually we do a mitzvah only after we have the opportunity to do it. Here, he started the mitzvah even *before* he had a place to put the mezuzos, and Hashem then gave him the opportunity to use them.

I was in the same situation. I'm a sofer myself, but after so many years, we were still living in rented apartments. We had just made our first shidduch, and yet we did not have a home to call our own. We couldn't afford it. After reading the story, I decided to try it too, and began devoting some time each day to writing mezuzos for our future home. I started writing on Sunday of Parshas Shemos.

The following Sunday, I went with my son the chosson and my mechutan to our Rebbe for a bracha. As he was speaking to us, he turned to me and said, "Do you know that during a simcha a great abundance of blessing descends from heaven? If you really believe this, you may receive even something very big, like an apartment!"

"So fast?" I thought. I had just started on the segula! I had to be realistic. "How could I possibly buy a dirah? I still have many expenses for the chasunah."

The Rebbe smiled. "Emunah has no limits. If you believe it, you can purchase an apartment today!" He pointed to a Gemara on his desk. "Do you *believe* that there is a Gemara here, or do you *see* the Gemara?" I didn't know what he wanted. Of course I see the Gemara, I said.

"You should see that you can buy a dirah, just like you see the Gemara!"

I came home in a state of shock and confusion, and told my wife what the Rebbe had said. She has even more pure bitachon than me, and she said, "Okay, so let's go!"

I called a real estate agent and asked him about apartments in the city we had always wanted to live in. Once we were banking on emunah, I listed to him everything we dreamed about. Enough bedrooms for all the children to be comfortable, centrally located...

He said that he had exactly such a dirah. The price? Just 2,600,000 shekels. We went out to look at it, and it was perfect! It was even close to a shul of my Chassidus.

To listen to stories press

The Jews who listen to the Hotline can tell you:

I said to the agent, "We'll take it."

"Do you have the money?" he asked.

"The Rebbe said I should buy, so I'm buying."

The agent accepted this, since he had done the same thing when he bought his own apartment! With emunah, you don't have to have all the answers beforehand. I was picturing the Gemara on the Rebbe's desk; the money was just as real.

The following Sunday, right before the chasunah, I met with the seller and he told me the payment schedule. 150,000[₪] the first month, 450,000[₪] by six months, and 500,000[₪] in a year. The rest could be paid in mortgage installments. Whoa! I started getting cold feet. How could I sign this contract without a shekel to show for it?

I told him I needed a few more days. Anyway, the abundance of blessing continues during the sheva brachos. On Tuesday, I went back to the Rebbe to express my fears.

He said, forcefully, "Believe that the apartment will be yours!"

On Thursday, I sat down with the seller and signed the contract. I didn't have any money for it, but was trying to be strong in emunah and bitachon.

After that, I started thinking about where I could get money. That's when the naysayers began working on me. They were trying to be nice, and wanted me to return to reality. "Do you think money grows on trees? Is the Rebbe paying for it? How could you commit to such a thing?" I ignored them, but it was getting hard.

A few days later, the agent called me again. "Are you interested in selling the roof on top of your dirah?" My dirah was on the top floor. I asked some people in the business, and they told me it should go for half a million shekels, easy.

The next day, I sat down to learn after Shacharis, and when I left the shul, the agent was waiting in his car for me.

"There are two people fighting over the roof, each one offering a million shekels! So, do you want to sell?" I said I needed to ask my Rebbe first.

I went in to him and told him the latest developments, and he responded, "If Hashem sent you a buyer, sell. But why not 1,200,000?"

Last week, 26 Shevat, I met with the fellow who bought the roof. He gave me the first payment in cash, and I sent it to the man who sold me the dirah. As each payment for the roof came in, I used it to pay my bill. All I have left until next year is 200,000 shekels! I know Hashem will send it.

And so I got the dirah of my dreams, without putting in any great effort, investments, know-how or contacts. Just emunah! Trust in Hashem and His representatives, daas Torah.

My mezuzos are already ready.

(Bitachon Yomi, Tuesday, Parshas Terumah - #102)

Saved by Simcha

Reb Nota Slonim of Beit Shemesh called in this story related by his friend Reb Yaakov of Bnei Brak:

We were preparing for my son's wedding, and for a long time working on getting my mother in London to be able to join us. She had already had corona, so wouldn't need quarantine. Then they closed the skies for while. At the last moment, they allowed her to fly, and she was supposed to land on the very day of the wedding. I went to the airport to wait for her. I waited and waited, but she didn't appear. I called her, and she said that she couldn't find legal certificate stating that she had already had corona! Without it, she would have to go to a corona-hotel for two weeks – missing the chasuna and sheva brachos. She was totally flustered, searching through all her bags as the stern-faced policemen stood by, ready to take her away.

I called up an askan, asking how we could get her through. The fellow replied that it was a better idea for her to just go the hotel now, and then they could work on it. "Don't worry, she'll make it to the wedding!" he promised. I accepted his opinion and told my mother to do that. It didn't even cross my mind to try to contact London to send a copy of it; I left it up to the askan. Anyway, I had a lot of things to do before the chuppah!

Meanwhile, my mother was "imprisoned" in her hotel room. Alone in a different country, nobody around to help her, and worst of all – she was missing her grandson's wedding! As the hours went by, (I kept trying to call the askan, but couldn't get through) she was getting more and more unhappy. Finally, she caught herself. She started thinking, "The police didn't put me here, the askan can't get me out; it's all Hashem doing it. It must be for a good reason. Either way, I can celebrate my grandson's wedding, even if I'm here all by myself!"

She decided to get dressed for the wedding, and opened her suitcase for her outfit. She put it on, and – what was that in the pocket? Her certificate of corona! She finally remembered that she had put it there to keep it safe. She didn't know they would ask for it right in the airport!

She called the front desk and explained that she had found it. Baruch Hashem she was released within a few minutes. She got a taxi to the hall, and made it in time for the seudah and dancing. Her emunah and simcha brought the *yeshuah*!

The next morning, the askan called me back and said that he had gotten a letter exempting my mother from quarantine.

(Bitachon Yomi, Wednesday, Parshas Terumah #103)

"Mordechai, They're Testing you!"

Forty years ago, a special Yid lived in Williamsburg named Reb Mordechai Porgasky. He was a chassidische Jew with ironclad emunah. Whenever he faced a difficulty, he would say to himself, "Mordechai, they're testing you!" to be mechazek himself.

One night, I went to an apartment building, and was surprised to see R' Mordechai pacing back and forth in the lobby, repeating "Mordechai, they're testing you!" over and over. I asked him what was going on, at such a late hour.

"I lost my keys."

"What, here in the building?"

"No, I live here. I lost them somewhere on the way home."

"So why are staying here? Why don't you retrace your steps?"

"I just realized I lost them, and I'm sure Hashem will return them to me. it's just a test."

I was astonished at his level of bitachon. I had to see how this would pan out. I waited there, and after a few minutes a goiy walks into the lobby, "Hey, did anyone lose a set of keys?"

R' Mordechai replied calmly that indeed, he had lost his keys. The goiy gave him back his keys, and went home. I couldn't believe my eyes. I ran after the goiy and asked him how he had gotten to this building. Did he find the keys right outside?

"No, I found them a few streets away. I don't know, I was walking with them, and saw this big building so I thought it probably belongs to someone here." That sounded strange – the whole Williamsburg was full of big buildings! It was only because of R' Mordechai's emunah peshutah!

Q's & A's

Q's & A's about emunah and bitachon

It's well-known that giving maaser money brings blessing in parnassah. There are disparate opinions about this, though. Can we still see the bracha today when we give maaser?

A.M., Petach Tikva

Q #15

Tried and Tested

Reb Chaim Wolfson from Yerushalayim: The sefer Kesser Rosh of Rav Chaim Volozhiner zt"l quotes the Gr"a, who says that whoever is careful to give maaser is guaranteed to be spared from all forms of damage. If he gives a fifth, he will become wealthy (see Y.D. 249:1). Also, bitachon will become rooted in him. **If all Klal Yisroel would give maaser, the possuk "There will not be in your midst a pauper" would be fulfilled!**

I heard in the name of Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt"l that although there are opinions that you don't have to give maaser, everyone agrees that if you do, you will merit blessings from Hashem. So, you are invited to follow the Navi's statement – "Test Me in this," and see the blessing of Hashem.

Reb Yehoshua Cohen from Yerushalayim: The blessing is as Chazal say עשר בשביל שתתעשר – give maaser so you will become wealthy. It's true in our days as well. I can tell you that since I got married, we keep track of all our earnings and give maaser – and we never struggled for money.

Reb Mordechai Avraham Rosenfeld, Givat Zeev: I saw this myself. Once, I stopped giving maaser, and I had much less income, or some major expense came up. I heard about someone who gives maaser even before he makes money, and he sees wondrous yeshuos.

What is wealth?

Reb Shlomo Shimon Rothman from Beit Shemesh; Reb Moshe Halevi from Bnei Brak: Being a *sandek* at a bris is purportedly a segulah for wealth, yet the Steipler, who was a *sandek* many times, was not wealthy. When asked about this, he explained that there are different types of wealth. His wealth was that Klal Yisroel liked the sefarim he wrote. Maaser is the same; you'll see *siyatta dishmaya* in all areas of life.

Hashem's Ways are Hidden

Reb Yehuda Solomon from Afula: Throughout all the generations, whoever gave maaser was very blessed. A few years ago, many people lost a lot of money, but those who were careful to give maaser did not. Still, Hashem is the only One who knows all the cheshbonos, and we can't really know how or where the blessing will come. Be strong in bitachon and that "nobody ever became poor from giving tzedaka, or had any evil or damage befall him." (Rambam, Hilchos Tzedaka).

Reb Avigdor Friedman from Bnei Brak: Even when there is a promise from Hashem, a person's sins can uproot it. Yaakov Avinu was concerned about this. It definitely helps, though, as the Chofetz Chaim writes in Ahavas Chesed (2:19): עשר בשביל שתתעשר – If it brings wealth, it certainly should help prevent poverty. However, there are many things that cause people to lose their money. The Gemara in Sukkah (29) lists four of them. The Midrash here is telling us that even if a person transgresses those things, maaser will help to prevent his losing any money.

Reb Yaakov Bahgan from Ashdod: The sefer Maaser Kesofim quotes Rav Moshe MiPremesla, a student of the Maharshal, who explains that even if we don't see the blessings from giving maaser, we may be assured of benefit in the Next World. Also, Rav Sheffel, the son of the Shel"ah said, "I praise the Ashkenazim who are very, very careful about giving maaser. This is how they are able to give over their wealth to their descendants, generation after generation." This shows us the far-reaching effects of maaser.

Question for issue 63

We learned that you shouldn't do too much hishtadlus. Is this true also for spiritual endeavors, like kiruv rechokim?

A. S., Ashdod

To send in questions or answers: Leave a message on the Hotline at 02-301-1300 menu 3 ext. 5 (Yiddish or Hebrew) | Email: s023011300@gmail.com | Fax: 02-659-9189 - Until Sunday Parashat Tzav

Replies must include your full name and city Names of questioners are printed with initials and city

A Thought on Bitachon

From the shiurim on Kav Hashgacha Pratis

Moshe Rabbeinu had difficulty with the *machatzis hashkekel*, until Hashem showed him a shekel of fire. What was hard for him to understand?

When Hashem instructed Moshe to build the Mishkan, it was difficult for him understand. How could simple people, using regular money, create a place for the Shechinah? Doesn't the creation of such a place require great spiritual preparation and materials?

Hashem answered his question by showing him a shekel of fire, alluding to the fact that the money has tremendous potential if used for the right things. People think that money is physical and can't be used for kedusha, but in truth, Hashem showed us that money can be used to generate the fire of Shechinah.

The Klausenberger Rebbe zt"l once asked a Yid if he sets aside time to learn Torah. The man answered that he doesn't have time; he's too busy earning parnassah. The Rebbe looked at him in astonishment, "What – you think Hakadosh Boruch Hu will give more money to someone who doesn't learn, than to someone who does learn?!" He told him that when a Yid is born, a bag of money is prepared on high to sustain him. If he sets time to learn Torah, he receives it; if not, Hashem takes it back and says, "You can manage on your own." Recently an avreich came to ask for help. He has huge debts. If he did more hishtadlus, it would

Excerpts from the popular shiur by Harav Hatzaddik R' Beirish Shneebalg shlit"a

A Jew Comes Along with a Bag of Money

take away from his learning. That could not be the solution, then. Instead I gave him our shiurim about trusting in Hashem, and after listening to the shiurim, he decided to stop trying to do Hashem's job for Him.

A few days later, his widowed mother called him up and asked him to come live with her. She had been living alone for a number of years already, but suddenly, she asked him to come. He moved in with her and she began covering all his hefty food expenses. Also, he rented out his apartment, and now makes enough money to start paying off his debts!

Pesach is coming, and with it a big temptation to rely on loans in order to cover all the costs. We have to remember that we have been given a "shekel of fire" to use in order to do Hashem's will, and we should plan carefully how to spend it.

Regarding this, the Sefer Ohr Hameir says that some Jews have forgotten the main point of Yom Tov. Their focus is on fancy clothes and luxuries of food and drink, which is surely not the reason for Yom Tov! Sometimes they have to steal, cheat, or do other sins in order to acquire these items. Thus the Shelah explains the obligation to check one's pockets before Pesach as implying that one should check that the *money* in his pockets is kosher, clean of stealing or cheating...

The shiurim of Harav Shneebalg are delivered weekly in Yiddish and Hebrew alternatively. Dial 2 then 3 (after language preference)

Effects on Two Ends

On the receiving end

My 9-year-old son was out delivering mishloach manos when he fell. Everything got ruined, even his costume, and he came home crying. I was so sad to see this – especially on Purim!

I asked him what I could do to make him feel better. He said, "I want to read the latest Hashgacha Pratis newsletter."

I ran to the shul, found one, brought it home – and he calmed right down!

I was struggling with parnassah; I saw no way out. I promised that if I see a yeshuah I will give 1080 shekels (the numerical value of 'מצר תצנני') to Hashgacha Pratis. Boruch Hashem, I got a great job and now make a good living! Here is my donation.

On the giving end

You, too, can be a partner in spreading emunah throughout the world, and merit the Zohar's promise of "children and grandchildren who are G-d-fearing and upright!"

Call now to the sponsorship hotline (972) 631-3742 or donate by:

בעמדות משלוח העברה לבנק
נדרים פלוס בדואר לאומי סניף
על שם 'שער' 5475 לת.ד. 902 חשבון
הבטחון ירושלים 57390056

SPONSORS

לעילוי נשמת
הרה"ג ר' מאיר
בן הרה"ג ר' ישראל זצ"ל

For the success of משה בן אושרה in all areas

Interested in distributing hard copies in shuls, stores, etc.?

Call the office at (972) 586-6075

between 12 PM & 2 PM Israel time or leave a message anytime

Contact us to receive copy at B023011300@gmail.com