





Rabbi Moshe Sherer held many meetings with bishops and archbishops, since he felt that it was vital for Agudas Yisrael to have a relationship with the clergy of other faiths.

“Tell me,” I said to him. “You meet with a lot of these clergymen, right?”

“Yes.”

“Some of them hold high positions in the church, correct?”

“Absolutely.”

“Did you ever ask any of them about the rumors that there are vessels from the *Beis HaMikdash* in the Vatican basement?”

“I’ve asked them that question many times,” he replied. “Whenever I meet someone who has spent considerable time in the Vatican, I go out of my way to inquire about the vessels of the *Beis HaMikdash*.”

“And?”

“And I came to the conclusion that there’s nothing there.”

I never forgot his answer, but I always told myself that if I ever met someone who might know the answer to this question, I would make sure to ask it myself.

A number of years ago, I received an invitation to attend an event sponsored by the Israeli Rabbinate in conjunction with the Ministry of Religious Services. The actual event was being held at an upscale restaurant in Yemin Moshe and was well attended by a wide range of people, including many distinguished *rabbanim*. There were quite a few important Muslim and Catholic personages, too. I was seated beside a person who was wearing regular clothing. There was nothing overly clerical about his look, and I had no reason to assume that he was connected with the church. It wasn’t long before we fell into conversation and I asked him where he lived.

“I’ve just come here from China,” he replied.

“That’s very interesting.”

“Yes, it is. I was just there for a number of months, but the truth is that I’m Italian.”

“Really?”

“Absolutely.”

“Where in Italy do you live?”

“I live in Milan.”

“And what do you do there?”

“I’m the bishop of Milan.”

I immediately began asking him a series of questions with the goal of homing in on the topic that was really on my mind: the *keilim* of the *Beis HaMikdash*.

After a little more conversation, I asked him whether he had much of a connection to the Vatican, and he explained that not only did he have a connection with the Vatican, but he had been in charge of all the Vatican libraries in Rome.

“Then I must ask you a question,” I said.

“And I will give you the answer before you ask,” he replied with a twinkle in his eye, not allowing me to finish the question.

“How do you know what I want to ask you?”

“Every Jew who hears that I was affiliated with the Vatican asks me the same question. I’m used to it by now.”

“And the answer is...,” I prompted.

He leaned back in his chair and said, “I want to explain something to you. In all honesty, I have no idea if the vessels of the Temple were ever in the possession of the Vatican. There’s a definite possibility that this was indeed the case and they were stored in the Vatican basement. But I want you to keep one thing in mind: There was a period of time over a thousand years ago when the Vatican ran into devastating financial difficulties. There were wars to finance, plagues to contend with, parishes that needed funds, and all sorts of other serious problems, all of which required financial support from Rome. The Pope took all the valuables that were stored in the Vatican — all the gold and precious jewels — and sold them in order to raise money and save the church from going bankrupt.

“Keeping all this in mind, I will tell you that there is no chance that any of the Temple vessels still remain in the Vatican — even if they were once there.”

There it was. I had asked the question I’d been hoping to ask for years. And I’d gotten my answer. 📧

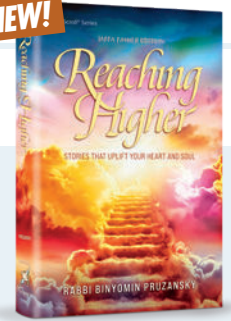
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Rabbi Moshe Sherer



Yisroel Katzover



When Rav Moshe Halberstam, a renowned *posek* in Eretz Yisrael, passed away, his family was unable to find his will. They were certain that he had written a will, but no amount of searching brought it to light.

On the morning *shivah* had ended, one of the sons decided to go to his father's grave to *daven* that the family would be able to find the will. Standing before his father's grave, he



Rav Moshe Halberstam

pleaded, "Tatty, please come to me in a dream and tell me where you put the will." He *davened* there for quite a while and then went home.

That night, his father came to him in a dream. The son related that his father told him exactly where the will was hidden, and when he woke up, he went to that place and found it exactly where his father had said it would be. This proved to him that the dream was a true communication from his father and not a figment of his imagination.

Based on this certainty, he felt an

obligation to share some of the other powerful truths his father conveyed to him from the Next World: "I want you to know, my son, that I am enjoying a *lichtige Gan Eden*,

**"HASHEM HAS THE GREATEST NACHAS WHEN KLAL YISRAEL JOINS TOGETHER AS ONE PEOPLE."**

and I want to share with you three things. First, when *Chazal* (*Pesachim* 50a) tell us that the next world is an upside-down world, it is true. The ones who are downtrodden and destitute in your world are given great honor in the world above. The ones who get great honor in your world do not necessarily have that status here. I always believed this *Chazal* was true, but now I see it with my own eyes.

"Secondly, Hashem has the greatest *nachas* when *Klal Yisrael* joins together as one people to sing songs of

praise to Him, especially on *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov*. And when they come to *shul* to *daven* and to learn Torah, that brings Hashem tremendous joy.

"And thirdly, the greatest *nachas ruach* a person can bring to Hashem is when he goes out of his way to do an act of kindness for another Jew. When you give your heart and soul to do *chesed* for Hashem's children, and when you take care of them with *mesiras nefesh*, you can't imagine how much *nachas* Hashem has from that act."

*This story is incredible for a few reasons. First, it strengthens our emunah when we hear about a clear message from the Next World. We also see the power of tefillah, as the son's tefillah was answered immediately and directly. Thirdly, we learn what an incredible impression our interactions with our fellow Jews make in the heavens above. We see that all of us, with a little extra awareness, have the ability to bring Hashem true nachas.* 📖

## TEACHERS continued from page 1

Eventually, he felt comfortable enough to ask the *rosh yeshivah* a question.

"We are both teachers," the professor began. "You impart knowledge and I impart knowledge. What is the essential difference between us? The Torah you teach is a stream of wisdom and the advanced math I teach is also a stream of wisdom. Why do you consider yourself to somehow be doing something better, or more elevated than what I do, when it's really the same thing?"

Gently, Rav Simcha asked the gentleman how many students he had. The professor replied that he'd taught hundreds of students over the years, perhaps even thousands.

"Would you say you had a good relationship with them?" asked the *rosh yeshivah*.

"A wonderful relationship," the gentleman answered.

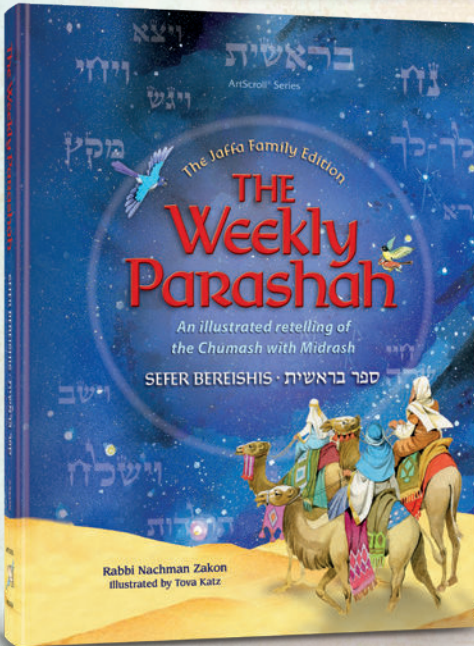
"How many of those students have invited you to their weddings?" Rav Simcha asked.

The professor looked at him in surprise. "To their weddings? Why would they invite me to their weddings? I'm their teacher, not their friend."

Rav Simcha smiled. "By us, a student would never consider getting married without the teacher. We don't give them information, but life itself. The substance of what we teach is eternal, and so the relationship is eternal too. That is the difference." 📖

**THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT WE TEACH IS ETERNAL, AND SO THE RELATIONSHIP IS ETERNAL TOO.**

# Parashah for Children



## פרשת ויצא

### Maariv and Sleep



When Yaakov saw that it was dark, he immediately davened Maariv. How do you get ready for bed out in the wild, when you don't have a tent or a sleeping bag? Yaakov collected rocks. One was his "pillow." He placed the others in piles around his head as a protective wall against wild animals. Then he lay down on the ground and fell asleep.

### Talking Rocks



While he was asleep, the rocks began to argue. Each rock wanted to be Yaakov's pillow. Each rock said, "Let this tzaddik rest his head on me."



Because they all wanted to be Yaakov's pillow, Hashem joined all the stones together, making them one stone. Now Yaakov's head rested on all of them. The rocks stopped arguing. Yaakov took 12 stones.

Later, when Yaakov woke up and saw that the rocks had miraculously become one, he knew it was a sign from Hashem.

Yaakov would have 12 children who would become the 12 shevatim — and become one united Jewish nation.

### Ladders and Angels



As Yaakov slept he dreamt. In his dream, he saw a very, very tall ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Angels were going up the ladder and other angels were going down.

The angels going up were the angels that were protecting Yaakov in Eretz Yisrael. They aren't allowed to leave Eretz Yisrael. So Hashem sent down other angels who would guard Yaakov while he would be living outside the Holy Land.

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## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parashas Vayeitzei:

**Of the sons of Yaakov, whose name contains all the letters of Hashem's name?**

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to [shabbosquestion@artscroll.com](mailto:shabbosquestion@artscroll.com) by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.



The winner of the Vayeira question is: **JOYCE HARARY, Brooklyn, NY**

The question was: Why was Lot's wife turned into salt, and not something like pepper or cinnamon?  
The answer is: She turned into salt because she didn't want to give salt to the angels. And then she ran to borrow salt from neighbors, as a way of telling them that her husband was doing the big sin of having guests. Her sin was with salt, so she was punished with salt.