

ראה / Re'eh

A New Mayor?

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Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

The Friedman boys were walking home from day camp along with their counselor and next door neighbor, Ari Shpetter. "Look", said Dovid, pointing to some election posters on a building. "Isn't that Dudu Manor, the Israeli politician who just ran for Prime Minister?"

Moishy looked up to see the campaign posters that had been plastered around town the day before. Sure enough, there was Dudu's face, with big letters saying "Dudu Manor for Mayor!", "Everyone loves Dudu!", and "Put Manor in City Hall!"

"Yep, it's him," said Moishy. "My friend Nachy told me that after he lost the election in Israel, he heard about Mayor McGillicuddy getting injured in his car accident (see *Toras Avigdor Junior Parshas Va'eschanan*) and thought if he came to America to run for Mayor of University City he'd have a chance of winning. He really wants to win the election. He even had a meeting with the Rabbonim and asked them to tell all of the *frum* Yidden to vote for him."

"Why would an Israeli politician want to be the mayor of a town in America?" asked Dovid. "It's quite a step down from running for Prime Minister of an entire country."

"Who knows how politicians' minds work?" laughed Moishy. "Remember, McGillicuddy wanted to give drivers' licenses to ten year old kids who helped him with his 'Save a Life' campaign. And another



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time he hired Tzadok 'Hatzadik' to be the 'Chief Kabbalah Advisor to the Mayor'. Politicians do pretty funny stuff."

"Anyway, Dudu Manor put out a message to the Yidden saying that we should vote for him because he comes from Eretz Yisroel and if elected he will make University City just like Eretz Yisroel, since he knows what life is like there."

"I highly doubt he will do that," sighed Ari.

"Why not?" asked Moishy. "If he lived there his whole life then he should know better than anyone how to do that. He said that he grew up surrounded by Jews who live in Eretz Yisroel and a lot of his supporters will move here because of him, so there will be so many Yidden living here!"

"Yes, well he lived in Tel Aviv," Ari said. "That city is not exactly a Makom Torah."

"Yeah, but at least it's in Eretz Yisroel," Dovid replied, confused. "Isn't Eretz Yisroel the most kadosh place in the world? And if he brings people from Eretz Yisroel here, won't we have even more kedusha here?"

"Eretz Yisroel is Kadosh," said Ari, "but only when it is a place of Torah. Dudu Manor's supporters are not Shomrei Torah uMitzvos. They are *mechalel Shabbos*, eat *treif*, and don't learn Torah. Even our small *frum* community here in University City has more kedusha than a secular *kibbutz* in Eretz Yisroel, which is full of people who live just like *goyim*."

Dovid's eyes opened wide in wonder. "You mean we are right now in a place that is more

holy than some places in Eretz Yisroel?" he asked incredulously.

"Absolutely!" Ari smiled. "Yidden always need to live first and foremost in a place of Torah. That's why, before the First Beis Hamikdash was destroyed, Hashem caused Nevuchadnetzar to send the "חֲרָשׁ וְהַמְסִיגָר", ten thousand of the greatest Talmidei Chachomim in Eretz Yisroel, to Bavel to build Torah centers there before the rest of Klal Yisroel went into Golus. And for the same reason, Yaakov Avinu sent Yehuda down to Mitzrayim before everyone else, to set up a Yeshiva there so that the Bnei Yisroel would arrive in a Makom Torah.

"At the beginning of this week's Parsha, it says about Eretz Yisroel "וְיִרְשְׁתֶּם אֹתָהּ וְיֹשְׁבֹתֶיהָ בָּהּ" - that we should take possession of Eretz Yisroel and live there. Rav Avigdor Miller explains that the purpose of this Mitzvah is to ensure that we live in a place full of Torah and Mitzvos, where we will be safe from the spiritual dangers of the rest of the world. The place for Klal Yisroel is where there is a place of Torah, where we can be protected from bad influences and strengthen our connection with Hashem. No matter where we are, the most important thing is to make sure we live with other *frum* Yidden who want to grow close to Hakadosh Boruch Hu. And the more, the better!

"So unless Dudu Manor plans to bring more Kollelim to our city, we are better off now than with any silliness that he wants to bring here from Tel Aviv."

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

It is a zechus to live in Eretz Yisroel among frum Jews. Even if we don't live in Eretz Yisroel but in a good frum neighborhood we should consider ourselves lucky to live in a place beloved by Hashem.



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