

The Torah Any Times

from TorahAnyTime.com

Rabbi Joey Haber

The Bar Mitzvah Singer

There was an orphan boy who was nearing closer and closer to his bar mitzvah. Aside from this, he had a beautiful voice, which never failed to mesmerize and inspire others. As those close to the family realized that his bar mitzvah was around the corner, they gathered together and decided to call upon a world-class Jewish singer and ask if he would be able to attend the bar mitzvah and sing. The singer complied, but attached a hefty price to his attendance and performance.

“This is an orphan,” replied the community members, gently requesting that the singer forego payment and do this out of the goodness of his heart. The singer wasn’t quick to comply. “This is my job,” he said, unsure he could accommodate such a request, however heart-breaking it was. “But this is an orphan,” they repeated.

After giving some thought to it, the singer called back and said he would do it. And sure enough, he showed up and sang alongside the boy, creating the highlight of the night and certainly a memorable experience. It was a touching moment for everyone.

Two days later, the singer received a phone call. “The bar mitzvah boy just tested positive for COVID-19. We are sorry, but we wanted to let you know.” The singer knew what needed to happen next. He went to get himself tested.

And sure enough, he tested positive.

Now, he was taken aback. He extended himself to do a mitzvah, purely out of kindness, and he would need to remain quarantined for two weeks! Now he wouldn’t be able to work for the next couple of weeks and he’d lose out on several performances he could give.

But G-d always has something in mind. There is always a bigger picture, with some goodness waiting to emerge.

Two months later, the singer received another phone call. An organization was putting together a huge bar mitzvah celebration for orphans. “We want you to sing for all the boys,” they told him. “Would you be able to do so?” He’d surely be paid well for this gig, without question.

“How did you get my number?” he asked. “There are a lot of singers in the world.” “One of our orphans,” they said, “was at a small bar mitzvah in Israel for another orphan, and he saw the care you showed toward the bar mitzvah boy, and he was so touched.” The singer remained silent, taking in every word.

“But one second,” they added, “before we finalize this, we need to make sure that you’ve had COVID already. We don’t want to take the risk that anyone will be exposed to the virus.”

“You got it,” he said, “I’ve had it already.”

The TorahAnyTimes is a publication of



Compiled and Edited by Elan Perchik

IN THIS ISSUE

Rabbi Joey Haber
 Rabbi Uri Lati
 Rabbi Yaakov Mizrahi
 Rabbi Avi Wiesenfeld
 Mr. Charlie Harary
 Rabbi Yaakov Moshe Altman

DEDICATIONS

L'iluy Nishmat
 R' Elchonon Yaakov z"l ben R' Shmuel Pinchos
 Manish ben Esther
 Meir Eliyahu ben Yaakov Dov
 Bechor ben Rivkah
 Shlomo Zalman ben R' Mordechai Yisroel Tzvi
 Esther bat haRav Avraham Halevi z"l
 Moshe Simcha ben Doniel Dov Ber
 Miriam bat Yeshayahu
 Malka Bracha bat Shimon Chaim
 R' Zechariah Shimon ben Yitzchok
 L'refuah Sheleima
 Deena bat Shoshana
 Chaya Raizel bat Dena
 Yerachmiel Eliyahu Ben Esther Riva
 Reuven ben Rochel

Rabbi Uri Lati

Hitting Your Goal

Rav Shalom Schwadron zt”l, the famed and beloved maggid of Jerusalem, had a student who used to attend one of his weekly classes. Without fail, for six months, the student was always there, consistent as could be.

But then, suddenly, it changed. The student didn't show up. One night turned into two and two into three, until a week had gone by. What had happened? Rav Schwadron decided to find out himself, and walked over to the student's home.

“Shlomi, we've missed you the past week. I'm here to see if you're doing well.” Shlomi, although hesitant to reveal the true reason why he hadn't attended the class the past week, opened up. “To tell you the truth Rabbi, the World Cup has been on and I've been watching the games. It's the biggest soccer game in the world.” Rav Schwadron stood there, taking in everything his student was saying.

The student continued, explaining how the game of soccer is played. “There are two teams, each competing to get a ball into the

opposite goal on the other side of the field, guarded by a goalkeeper.” Rav Schwadron had his own idea in mind. “Okay, why don't you and I head to the park right now and we'll shoot goals?” “Rabbi, I want to watch this series. The World Cup is the biggest game of the best teams.” Rav Schwadron, though, was not ready to give up.

“Shlomi, let me get this right. The whole purpose of the game is to get the ball into the other goal, which is being guarded and protected by the other team's goalie. Is that right?” Shlomi nodded. “No problem, then, let's go to the park. There, you won't have any goalie and you'll be able to make all the goals you want.” But Shlomi was not satisfied. “Rabbi, I don't want to play myself and just shoot goals. I want to watch the World Cup. It's competitive and I can watch the best players in the world. It's no fun if I just shoot around into a goal with no one stopping me. It's only challenging if someone is trying to stop you, if there's a goalie doing his best to keep you from scoring.”

With this, Rav Schwadron ex-

plained. “Shlomi, exactly what you just said is true about life as a Jew. It's one thing to come to a Torah class when there is nothing in your way stopping you. When there is no 'goalkeeper,' it's relatively easy to do what you need to do. The challenge is easy. But when is it hard and truly rewarding to come to class? When you do have something stopping you, when it is hard, and you don't want to come. When that goalie appears, then it's a real competitive match. You may not think you have what it takes, but then you do it, no matter how difficult it is, and realize that you made the goal.

That is G-dly. In those moments when your yetzer hara, your inclination, is fighting with you to do what is right, that is when everything counts. When you overcome the difficulty and make the goal, that is when you shine forth.

Rabbi Yaakov Mizrahi

Invite Guests

Ilove doing chesed.” It's a commonly heard refrain among people and how we all feel deep-down. It's moreover built into our attitude and values as Jews, and a defining characteristic of us as individuals, families and a community.

The sentiment can be extended to where I've heard people say, “I would love to do hachnassat orchim (welcome guests into my

home) like Avraham Avinu.” It's a wonderful expression of love and care for others, and something we all should aspire for. Yet when we consider the parameters of having guests, something which is very common within our Jewish communities, there is something equally important to bear in mind.

Imagine if the Chief Rabbi of Israel would walk up to you and ask if you would be able to host

him for a Shabbat meal. “Of course!” you'd say enthusiastically. “It would be my honor.” You might even approach the Rabbi ahead of time, of your own volition, and express how much you'd love to host him.

Inviting guests like this is understandable. As much as you are being gracious to your guest, your guest is bringing you honor and pleasure.

Now what about guests who are friends in the community or family members from out of state? It too is a wonderful gesture, a heartfelt expression of your kindness and sin-

cerity.

Now let's look at what Avraham Avinu did in welcoming guests.

Three Arabs came across his tent. These were strangers. True, as the Torah discloses, they were angels, but Avraham wasn't aware of that. He had no idea that they were esteemed guests. For all intents and purposes, they were strangers, who were dusty and dirty from their travels through the desert, and of no special stature. If anything, they

were idolaters, and those with whom Avraham would want little to do.

And yet, he invited them in, graciously and generously, as if they were royalty.

Avraham didn't invite people into his tent for any prestige, for any stature, for any appreciation or good feeling that he'd gain because he was helping others. He did it because they were people with a need.

When we think about welcoming guests into our home, we look to

Avraham Avinu as the paragon. And what does he teach us? Invite everyone. Even if it's going to be awkward, the conversation won't be so engaging, you don't know them so well, and you don't have everything so perfectly arranged.

Avraham didn't act the way he did because of what people would say about him. It wasn't about Avraham himself. He did it purely for others.

We can do the same.

Rabbi Avi Wiesenfeld

Rearranging Your Mind

Mr. Jones was a ninety-two-year-old man admitted into a nursing home, shortly after the passing of his beloved wife. If you'd take a look at him and engage in conversation, you'd find that his mind was sharp, coordination right on point and outfit well kempt. His eyesight had dwindled in the past years, but was still good enough for him to get around. Considering everything, though, he believed that being in a watchful and supportive environment would serve him best.

He arrived at the nursing home one morning and mentioned the room number he was told he'd be residing in. "Good morning Mr. Jones! In just a few moments, ev-

erything will be ready for you," the secretary called out.

And then he was called up. "Your room is ready." Mr. Jones shot up, a smile overwhelming his face, reminiscent of a child about to receive candy. As he was led to his room down the hall, the attendant began telling him about the room. "So your room, Mr. Jones, is furnished with blue carpet, some pleasant pictures hanging on the wall, ample closet space near the bed area ..." Mr. Jones smile only grew wider. "Mr. Jones, it's so nice to see you so happy even though we haven't arrived at your room yet." He looked back, not losing his enthusiasm at all.

"Happiness is not how you arrange the furniture in your room," he piped up, his smile creasing at the corners of

his eyes, "it's about how you arrange your mind. I've already decided to love it."

In life, we have so much good. Hashem has given us such great gifts. Life itself is filled with blessings to no end. Being able to walk, articulate your words, see with clear vision, touch and feel with your fingers, possess the cognitive abilities to comprehend. We can be quick to overlook these gifts because there's always something else or something better. But that's missing the beauty. That's setting up your life's furniture in a non-sensible way.

Set up your mind in the right way and everything around will look beautiful.

Mr. Charlie Harary

Limited Vision

Thank you for reading this edition of The TorahAnyTimes Newsletter. If you've enjoyed, please let us know – we'd love to hear from you! Email info@torahanytime.com.

G-d sees the world from a perspective that we don't. Therefore, whenever G-d places a challenge before us, the challenge provides us a benefit that we don't see because it's too far in advance.

One of the great misconceptions we have is that we interpret the concept of gam zu l'tovah to mean, "It's alright ... something good will happen next time." We see a problem with no good associated with it, so we say that something else good will happen in the future.

But, with this attitude, we wrestle with the reality that our eyes

don't see how this is good, and every bit of our rational thinking tells us it makes no sense. We wonder why G-d would do such a thing.

You can fill in the blanks with whatever personal experience you have. "Why would G-d not do this? Doesn't He want this to happen?" It seems clearly good, so why isn't it happening? Our mind is saying that things must be a certain way. And yet, it's not that way.

But gam zu l'tovah doesn't simply teach us that everything comes from G-d; it means that when G-d does something, that occurrence itself is for the good. Not that something else

good will occur to take its place. That first, initial incident is the good. And in truth, everything is always for the good.

Our mind is limited within the realm of time. We cannot see in front of us. We cannot look into the future; we can only look at the past. G-d, however, can look into the future and all possible outcomes.

Time is on G-d's side. And with that point of view, everything makes sense. In time, we will come to see it that way.

How long will that be? Only G-d knows.

Rabbi Yaakov Moshe Altman

Having Problems?

Sometimes the only thing we are lacking is trust in Hashem that He is going to take care of us. That unto itself is what raises us up and brings about the merit to help us earn and accomplish whatever it is.

When things look bleak and black, and instead of saying, "This looks impossible!" you say, "Hashem, I know you have many ways of helping me!" that can put you over the top. That itself can yield the success you are looking for.

This is also the moment when the yetzer hara works its hardest to make us believe that G-d has abandoned us. But, truthfully, Hashem has placed us in this very circumstance so that we can rise above the challenge and thereby get to where we need. Without the challenge, we wouldn't be able to get there.

Don't see difficulty as G-d ignoring you, but rather as Him positioning you. He is putting you in a place where it is hard. Money

is not forthcoming, the shidduch doesn't look promising, the children are having a hard time ... these are experiences where we are pushed to unearth the greatness that lays dormant for us in life.

And as the saying goes, "Life doesn't happen to you; it happens for you." Why did this happen? It happened for you. It's not pleasant and you don't want it, but it's what will make you grow the most.

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
UNTIL FEB. 13!



RIVKAMALKA.COM

TORAHANYTIME is the world's largest yeshiva without walls currently spreading 10 million+ hours of Torah learning every year through web and mobile app (Android+iOS). TorahAnytime is free for all users and exists solely on donations from great people just like you.

To share in this great merit, donate online at www.torahanytime.com/#/donate. By check: TorahAnytime 151 Camp Hill Rd. Pomona NY 10970