

# תשפ"ד · Bnos 5784

## Parshas

Tzav

אָחינוּן כָּל בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנְּתוּנִים בְּצַרָּה וּבִשְׂבִיָּה הָעוֹמְדִים בֵּין בָּיִם וּבֵין בִּיבְשָׁה הַמְּקוּם יָרַחַם עֲלֵיהֶם וַיּוֹצִיאֵם מִצֶּרֶה לְרוּחָה וּמֵאֲפֵלָה לְאוֹרָה וּמִשְׁעָבוֹד לְגֵאֲלָה הַשְּׂתָא בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמּוֹן קָרִיב וְנֹאמַר אָמוֹ:



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# Story

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## A TEASPOON OF DOCTOR'S MEDICINE

Reb Mordechai, the Rosh HaKohol of Vienna over 230 years ago, was very respected. Not only was he a rich, successful businessman, but he was also popular and friendly, with good middos and a thirst for ohna ,trh. Every so often he would make long business trips, traveling far and wide to buy and sell.

On his travels, he heard a number of stories about a famous rabbi called Reb Dov Ber, the Maggid of Meseritch, who was teaching many talmidim a new derech in ohna ,trh. Reb Mordechai was very interested in this new group known as Chassidim, and he decided to travel to faraway Meseritch in the Ukraine to meet this new rabbi.

He arrived in Meseritch one afternoon and looked around him curiously. Eventually he decided to join the line waiting to speak to the Meseritcher Maggid. While waiting, he thought about how he would introduce himself and the questions he would ask Reb Dov Ber. But when his turn finally came, and he was ushered into the Maggid's presence, he became completely tongue-tied and had nothing to say!

The Rebbe smiled at him kindly and, without asking why he had come, remarked, "You should know that a doctor or his medicines do not really cure a patient. But every doctor is accompanied by a healing malach – the bigger the doctor, the greater the malach accompanying him. It's worthwhile for you to know that the most famous doctor is accompanied by the malach Refoel himself!" The Meseritcher Maggid nodded kindly and Reb Mordechai's audience was over.

He left Meseritch completely confused and disappointed. He had expected some advice in ohna ,trh or some words of Torah at the very least. But these strange words made no sense at all and had apparently nothing to do with him. He was neither a doctor nor the son of a doctor. He put the whole business out of his mind.

After some more weeks of business and traveling, he was finally on the way back to Vienna. But he was not feeling too well; he was weak, tired and suffering from headaches. By the time he reached Vienna he could hardly lift his hands or feet.

When his carriage reached home, he staggered out and threw himself into bed. Anxiously, his wife brought him a hot drink, but Reb Mordechai was truly ill. His face was flushed bright red and his eyes shone with an unhealthy brightness. Hastily, the family doctor was called, but he diagnosed that Reb Mordechai was only suffering from a chill, probably caught on the journey home. "Take this medicine," he ordered, "and he'll be back to himself in a week."

But Reb Mordechai was not better in a week, nor even two. On the contrary, from day to day, his condition worsened that winter, until the Vienna kehilla had little hope of saving their Rosh HaKohol. As news spread about his worsening condition, Tehillim was said in the shuls of Vienna during Reb Mordechai's last hours. But a few members of the kehilla had an idea - perhaps the Austrian Emperor's own doctor, Dr. Simon Gardia could help?

Graciously, the Emperor gave his permission, and the royal physician drove through the thick snow to the Rosh HaKohol's large house. As he entered Reb Mordechai's bedroom, he ordered the grieving family and Chevra Kadisha out of the room with a curt look before he approached the patient.

But he took one look and turned on his heel. "I am only a doctor," he announced brusquely to Reb Mordechai's frantic wife, "so I cannot raise people from the dead! Your husband is only hours away from the grave and there's nothing I can do!" As she burst into bitter sobs, Dr. Gardia made his way out with firm steps.

"Doctor! Doctor!" came the urgent call from upstairs. "The patient's reviving!"

Dr. Gardia raised his eyebrows in astonishment, shrugged and walked slowly back upstairs again. To his utter disbelief, some color had returned to Reb Mordechai's cheeks, and he showed more signs of life.

Hastily, he wrote out a prescription and was about to send for medicines when he took another look at the patient. To his amazement, a full recovery happened before his eyes. He tore up the prescription and wrote out a new one with weaker medicines.

But when he felt Reb Mordechai's pulse, he realized even these were inappropriate, and he decided to leave without prescribing anything at all and return in the afternoon.

When he came back he was told the patient urgently wanted to speak to him! He was astonished to see that Reb Mordechai was already sitting up in bed. He pointed shakily to a chair, and Dr. Gardia sat down heavily. Reb Mordechai told him of his trip to Meseritch and the strange talk of doctors and malochim. Obviously, that unknown rabbi had foretold how Reb Mordechai would be healed without any medicines.

Dr. Gardia left the house with his head in a whirl. He came from a Jewish background, and as a child had even accompanied his grandfather to synagogue, but he had long forgotten his background or yiddishkeit. Now this strange story and Reb Mordechai's miraculous recovery set him thinking, and he decided to get to the bottom of it.

He took leave of the Emperor and traveled to the Ukraine to meet the "Wonder Rabbi."

When he came in to the Meseritcher Maggid's room, the elderly Rebbe said, "I've been waiting for you for a long time! I'll heal your soul if you'll heal my body."

Reb Dr. Shimon Gardia stayed and became a fully fledged baal teshuvah. He spent most of his time in the bais hamedrash learning when he was not looking after the Rebbe.

Once a simple woman called Reb Dr. Gardia to her husband's bedside. When he arrived, he found the tiny hut crowded with young starving children and the sick man deathly ill in bed. He knew that there was nothing he could do to save the husband, but he did not have the heart to tell the wife. Instead, he wrote out a prescription note for some simple medicines and told the wife to give her husband a teaspoonful every hour.

But he realized that the husband would probably be dead by the next morning. So he brought a parcel of food for the starving family and came round in the morning to comfort the widow and orphans. To his surprise, he found that the husband had recovered!

"What did you do?" he asked. "How did it happen?"

"I did exactly as you said," the simple wife replied proudly. "I took the note, and since I realized one cannot give a teaspoonful of a piece of paper, I boiled it up in a pint of water and gave that to my husband every hour! And your medicine worked wonders!"

Dr. Shimon Gardia was amazed at the woman's simplicity and faith, and he always retold this story. "It shows us," he would say, "the power of v'yuap vbunt – of a simple faith. It even brings the dying back to life!"

After many years of learning Torah and Kabboloh, as well as treating the sick, Reb Dr. Gardia passed away on 26 Adar II, 1810 and was buried in Ostraha among the leaders of the Chassidim.

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# Parsha Quiz

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**See how much  
you know!**

1. Translate Tzav.
2. Translate Mitzvah.
3. What's the connection between these two words?
4. What part of an Olah does a Kohen receive?
5. Who must bring a Korban Todah?
6. Today, how do these four types of people express their thanks to Hashem?
7. Can a person donate a Korban Todah?
8. How many days did the installation ceremony (Miluim) of the Kohanim take?
9. During the seven days, what was the color of the garment that Moshe officiated in?
10. How many begadim did an ordinary Kohen wear?
11. How many begadim did a Kohen Godol wear?

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# Recipe

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# Ice Cream Tacos

## Ingredients:

6 tablespoons sugar

2 tablespoons Gefen Cinnamon

Gefen Canola Oil, for frying

24 mini corn tortillas

1 tub ice cream

1 cup Glicks Chocolate Chips

sprinkles

## Directions:

1. Mix sugar and cinnamon until combined; set aside.

2. Heat about an inch of oil in a large skillet over medium flame until shimmering. Working one at a time, add a tortilla to the skillet and let sizzle for 15 seconds. Flip the tortilla and use tongs to fold in half to create a taco shell. Cook on one side until golden, about two minutes, supporting the shell with tongs the whole time. Flip and cook until golden on the other side, about two minutes more.

3. Immediately toss in cinnamon sugar, then place in between cups of an inverted muffin tin. Repeat with remaining tortillas.

4. Once all the tortillas are fried, remove ice cream from the freezer and set aside to soften.

5. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave, stirring at 30-second intervals, until melted. Add a little canola oil as needed for a more pourable consistency.

6. When ready to assemble, scoop the softened ice cream into the tortilla shells. Drizzle with melted chocolate and top with sprinkles.

7. Store in the freezer for up to 24 hours if not serving immediately.

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# Middah of the Week

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Emunah

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**We want to hear from you!!**

Questions, comments, or suggestions?  
Email us at [bnos@agudah.org](mailto:bnos@agudah.org).

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