



## DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OU ISRAEL  
ABERMAN@OUISSRAEL.ORG

This past Shabbat was the second Shabbat that I, along with tens of thousands of others, were unable to return home to Israel because of the current war in Iran. However, I was given a tremendous opportunity when Rabbi Shalom Baum, my dear friend and incredible Rav of the Congregation Keter Torah in Teaneck, New Jersey, invited me to come spend Shabbat in his community and speak at the 9:15 am *minyan* on Shabbat morning, as well as at *seudat shelishit*. I want to express my gratitude to Rabbi Baum and the entire community for their warm hospitality and for their ongoing partnership with OU Israel over the years - from basketball tournaments raising funds for the OU Israel Teen Center in Sderot and so much more.

While being stuck outside of Israel now is incredibly difficult, I was able to take a small amount of comfort this past week, during the *yahrzeit* of my Rav, the former *Rishon LeTzion*, Rav Mordechai Eliyahu zt"l. Due to the situation and the limitations on gatherings in Israel, many of the *shiurim*

and recollections given about Rav Eliyahu took place online, and it allowed me to join and be inspired despite being so far away. Rav Eliyahu was tremendously influential in my life. He was the one who sent my wife and I, with our family, to Vancouver twenty-four years ago. His constant message of the importance of inspiring and uplifting *Klal Yisrael*, no matter where they are in the world, continues to be my mission. I might not have been able to be by his *kever* on his *yahrzeit*, which I usually try to do, but I had the *zechut* to continue the mission that he gave me twenty-four years ago, and which I try to continue doing every single day.

Therefore, throughout my trip, whether it was with friends and supporters in Vancouver, Los Angeles, New York, and New Jersey, I tried to give over a very clear message: In last week's *parsha*, *Parshat Shlach*, we learn that *Klal Yisrael* had a specific task - to go and see the situation in the Land of Israel and then come back and give a report. Yet, we see how ten of the spies come back from the Land of Israel and they are not sure that they have the means and might, the numbers of soldiers and the right weapons, to overcome the different nations that are living inside the Land. They talk of giants and grasshoppers, and their relative weakness to the strength and power of the inhabitants.

Yet, two spies stood out. Calev and Yehoshua came with a different spirit of understanding. They recognized that it's not about the number of soldiers, and in today's

**May the Torah learning  
from this issue of Torah Tidbits  
be in loving memory of my sister**

**Roberta Gail  
Silverberg Lopez a"h**  
**רחל גיטל בת הרשל ע"ה**

**On her 7<sup>th</sup> yartzheit**

**Malka Shrybman**

language, it is not about the number of tanks and planes that win wars. They understood that when *Klal Yisrael* walks hand-in-hand with *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*, when we believe and know that Hashem is with us and continuing to do miracles for *Klal Yisrael*, then we can win any war, no matter the odds.

It doesn't take much to believe in these miracles nowadays. It is mind-boggling to be here in America following the news happening every second in Israel. How a very high percentage of the missiles that are being shot at the State of Israel are, *baruch Hashem*, being brought down by the Iron Dome system that *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* gave us the ability to develop or hitting open areas. How the Soroka hospital was evacuated literally a day before it sustained a direct hit. There are many, many stories coming out every day. It is so painful to see the lives lost and the injuries from the missiles that do land, nevertheless, there are tremendous miracles happening here as well.

When we witness the Prime Minister of Israel publicly attribute the IDF's astounding military successes in this war to "*siyata dishmaya*," and the President of the United States speak of "the help of God," these are exactly what Calev and Yehoshua were talking about. These leaders understand that it is our Father in Heaven, the *Ribbono Shel Olam*, who is guiding us to make sure that every one of our missiles is hitting where they are supposed to go. It is Hashem that gave us the intelligence to develop anti-missile defense systems and to identify launches in advance that provides the chance for people to do their *hishtadlut* and take shelter. It is God who granted us the wisdom many years ago, when so many people thought that a *mamad* or a *miklat* was a waste

of money and time to put in every building, to make it a requirement that all new buildings must have them, saving countless lives because of this. May all of *Klal Yisrael* merit to open our eyes and recognize the wondrous, extraordinary miracles that *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* performs on our behalf.

*Chazal* teach that when Sancheriv besieged Yerushalayim, 185,000 of his soldiers were struck down in a single night through divine intervention. The Gemara (Sanhedrin 94a) states that Chizkiyahu was worthy to be *Mel-ech HaMashiach*, yet this role was not granted to him. The reason given is that despite witnessing these tremendous miracles, he failed to demonstrate proper *hakarat hatov* and did not publicize the wonders that Hashem had performed.

The lesson here is crucial. We all need to recognize and tell the world what is going on here, and this will help bring *Mashiach*. After everything that has happened, and I'm sure much more will have happened by the time Torah Tidbits goes to print, we have to make sure that we're saying *Tehillim* with such great *kavannah*, that we're saying thank you out loud to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* every single day for the endless miracles. That we're thinking so personally during the *beracha* of *Modim*,

In Memory of our Daughter  
On her 6<sup>th</sup> Yahrzeit - ד' תמוז

אביגיל מלכה ע"ה  
בת הרב משה וחנה יהודית

Avigail (Poupko) Rock a"h

פיה פתחה בחכמה ותורת חסד על לשונה

Rabbi Moshe & Chana Poupko  
and Family

especially the words, “*v'al nisecha she'b'chol yom imanu.*” Perhaps for a while we might have taken the day-to-day miracles for granted, but with all the open miracles happening around us, it is evident that now is the time when we have to literally look up to *Shamayim* and stand up and say, “Thank you *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* for these wonderful miracles!”

We also express a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated Torah Tidbits team of staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly last week to print and distribute Torah Tidbits. We owe tremendous *hakarat hatov* to the incredible distribution team and everyone else who worked so hard under the circumstances to ensure you received your Torah Tidbits.

Now, I am not belittling one bit the suffering that many families are going through. Each day the number of injured and dead rises. There are thousands evacuated from their homes, and others whose homes were damaged or completely destroyed. In each one of them, there is tremendous pain. Every soldier we lose, every civilian that is hurt, every hostage that is still in captivity is beyond painful to myself and to every Jew in the world.

That being said, when I look at the articles talking about the early estimates in the war of how many people were expected to *chas v'shalom* die and be injured, how many days and weeks we were going to be left without

gas or electricity, and we see that that didn't happen, we have to be grateful knowing what could have been. The fact that Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria, the Houthis, and now Iran, the “axis of evil” who desired to destroy Israel and kill Jews everywhere, have been thwarted, is something to be amazed at. It is clear that Hashem is performing tremendous miracles for us.

So I ask each and every one of you, dear readers, to say in your *tefillot*, “*Modim anachnu lach,*” and truly feel it like you've never felt it before, and with Hashem's help, may we continue to see miracles every day and see the building of the Beit HaMikdash *bimheira biyameinu.*

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,  
Rabbi Avi Berman  
Executive Director, OU Israel

כדת וכדין  
KADAT V'KADIN

“וגבור כארי”



Write Your Halachic Will Today  
[halachicwill.com](http://halachicwill.com)

Rav Menachem Copperman

Certified Dayan & Expert  
in Jewish Law

0544-731052  
[info@kadatvkadin.com](mailto:info@kadatvkadin.com)



Condolences to  
Vel Werblowsky and family  
on the passing of his brother

**Dr. Josh Werblowsky ז"ל**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים