



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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I was once waiting for a flight together with a distinguished *Rav* and *Rebbetzin*, who over the years have become dear friends to me. These are people with such warm hearts, constantly working on behalf of *Klal Yisrael* in so many different ways. As we sat waiting for our plane, the *Rebbetzin*, who cares deeply about the challenge of *shidduchim* in our generation, was working on a questionnaire for potential matches. She had a document of about four pages filled with questions that she wanted candidates to fill out, and she asked me to please review it and share my thoughts.

I sat there and read every single question. There were questions about everything: Do you wear a black hat? Do you wear a *kippa sruga*? Do you watch television? Are you *shomer negiah*? All sorts of questions about the background and lifestyle of the candidate. When I finished, she asked if I had anything to add.

I told her that I thought five questions were missing. She was intrigued and prepared to write them down. So I began: the first question is, *Nasata v'natata b'emuna*? Were you

honest in your business dealings? I could see her husband, who had been sitting and learning nearby, already smiling. He could see where I was going. The second question, I continued, is, *Kavata itim la'torah*? Did you make time to learn Torah? The third, *Tzipita liyeshua*? Did you await redemption? I continued with the questions, and explained that Chazal (*Shabbat* 31a) tell us that when a person dies, *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* does not ask them if they wore this hat or that hat, what kind of phone they have or if they read the newspaper. He asks these questions: Were you honest? Did you value Torah? Did you hope for the *Mashiach* to come and the *Beit HaMikdash* rebuilt? These are the fundamental values that Jews should have.

When it comes to *shidduchim*, there is no doubt that understanding what people want and what they are looking for matters. There was certainly nothing wrong with the questionnaire or with the *Rebbetzin's* intentions, which were completely *l'shem shamayim*. My point was simply to recognize that some questions are much more valuable and far more significant than the minute details of our lives, and that sometimes, we lose the forest for the trees.

That said, there is one question on that list that I have always found particularly stirring: *Tzipita liyeshua*? Did you await the Messiah every single day? Were you waiting for the *Beit HaMikdash* to be rebuilt? We all say that we are *metzapim liyeshua*. We all believe in the 13 *Ikkarim* of the Rambam: "*Ani ma'amin*," I believe with complete faith in the

In loving memory of

Ernest Kamins ז"ל

**אשר אליעזר
בן אברהם לייב ז"ל**
on his 11th *yahrzeit*

*From his Wife,
Children, Grandchildren
and Great-Grandchildren*

coming of the Messiah. We say that we are constantly waiting for *Mashiach Tzidkeinu* to come every single day, and even if he tarries, we will wait.

But there are certain moments in life when that faith becomes so vivid it's almost tangible. Standing in *shul* on *Yom Kippur*, *davening* with all our heart and soul during *Neilah*, singing “*Tehei ha’sha’ah hazot sha’as rachamim*,” let this be a time of mercy for *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*, looking around and seeing how many Jews are fasting and pouring out their hearts, tears in their eyes, *siddur* clutched so tightly in their hands... Or that moment when gathering with 100,000 Jews at the *Kotel* for *Birkat Kohanim*... Or if you’ve ever joined 12,000-15,000 Jews at a sunrise *tefillah*. All of these are moments when you think to yourself: this is a time when *Mashiach* could come. You feel it in your bones.

I believe that the period that we are currently living through has given all of us such a moment. This is not to discredit any suffering that has happened since the start of this war, there have been major losses to Am Yisrael. However, since *Shabbat Zachor*, when the military operation against Iran began and we were, *Baruch Hashem*, able to eliminate much of the horrific Iranian leadership, including Ayatollah Khamenei, and our brave soldiers together with the American military have been controlling the skies and doing what needs to be done to bring safety to the world, something remarkable has been happening in the hearts of the Jewish people. Hope is beginning to grow and grow.

I must have received from 30 or 40 people the incredible passage from the *Bnei*



Yissaschar about a war beginning on *Shabbat Zachor* and reaching its conclusion around *Pesach*. People were sharing all kinds of *simanim*, noting how fitting it was that on *Shabbat Zachor* we were able to strike at the enemies of the Jewish people, and on Purim to continue the battle against those who embody the spirit of *Amalek*. And then came *Pesach*, and precisely around the time of *Kriat Yam Suf* on *Shvi'i shel Pesach*, the deadline set by President Trump to the Iranians arrived, and we entered *chag*.

I spoke to many, many people before and throughout *Pesach*. The feeling was unmistakable. Something was in the air. I spoke to people in the *Chassidische* world and the *Litvishe* world, people who wear black hats and

May the Torah learning
from this Torah Tidbits
be in loving memory of
our dear mother

EDITH ROSNER a”h
עטל בת ר' נחום יצחק ע”ה
נלב”ע כ”ח ניסן תשנ”ב

אשה צנועה וישרה

Elliot & Nechama Rosner

people who are *Dati Leumi*, secular Jews and traditional Jews. Everyone I spoke to, especially on *Erev Shvi'i shel Pesach*, had this sense that something extraordinary was about to happen. People were asking: when exactly did *Kriat Yam Suf* take place? Was it at *chatzot*? Was it at *ashmoret haboker*? And when would this great moment arrive for us?

There is no doubt that many people expected something truly extraordinary, not merely the signing of a ceasefire. People were waiting for *Mashiach*. People were waiting for great miracles. And the reality is that great miracles are happening, but people were waiting for something even greater as *Shvi'i shel Pesach* entered.

A friend of mine was in Eilat with his whole family for Pesach. I shared with him the emotions I had been feeling, and he told me something beautiful. He said that on *Leil Shvi'i shel Pesach*, as happens every year, people left the hotels and walked down to the shore of *Yam Suf* in order to recite *Az Yashir* at the very waters where the miracle took place. How fitting that at the place where *Bnei Yisrael* crossed the sea, Jews return every year to relive that experience. But this year, he said, the thousands upon thousands of people who came out were different. There was such a

tziptiyah, such a hope, that something great was going to happen right then and there. They stood at the edge of *Yam Suf* and sang to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*, pleading: please bring us this miracle now.

When I heard this, I shared it with everyone in *shul* and said: we have to realize that this past *Shvi'i shel Pesach*, and perhaps even a few days before and after, gave all of us a gift. We can now look up to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and say with complete sincerity: *HaKadosh Baruch Hu, tzipinu liyeshua*. We waited. We hoped.

And now, after Pesach, we are not going to stop. Even if he carries we still wait. We do not know if *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* will bring the *geulah sheleimah* on *Yom HaZikaron*, on *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, on *Lag Ba'Omer*, on *Pesach Sheni*, on *Yom Yerushalayim*, on *Shavuot*, on *Tisha B'Av*, or some other day entirely. But one thing is certain: we have many peaks, many moments throughout the year, when we are actively, fervently waiting for *Mashiach* to come.

And I believe that *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* looks at our younger generation with tremendous pride. The generation that is fighting for the future of the Jewish people. The wives who are holding down their homes and raising their children year after year while their husbands serve in the army. I see the burden that my own daughter-in-law carries, the sacrifice my children are making, and the emotions that my wife and I go through every day with our sons serving over enemy lines. We are so proud of them, and we look up to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* every single day and ask: please watch over our sons, watch over *Klal Yisrael*, watch over each and every one of our soldiers. Grant a *refuah sheleimah* to our wounded. And watch over them all.

May the Torah learned
in this Torah Tidbits be
לעילוי נשמה

שיינדל רחל בת שלמה
וקריינדל בלימא ע"ה
נלב"ע ג' אייר

In loving memory of
Lilly Manheim a"h
on her 10th yahrtzeit
3 Iyar, 5786

B'ezrat Hashem, we will experience an incredible moment, hopefully very soon, when *Klal Yisrael* is unified, when our people come together and stand up for the values of Torah and the values of *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*.

And *b'ezrat Hashem*, together this week, we will all gather for the OU Israel *Yom Ha'atzmaut tefillah chagigit*. Every year we expect many thousands of people to attend, and *Baruch Hashem* they do. Last year, as many will remember, because of fires we had to move the event to the Ramada, which did an incredible job hosting us. Once again, due to the current situation we will be having the event at the Ramada. It is important that we are able to bring as many people together for this extraordinary event in the safest manner. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you there.

I know it will be yet another opportunity when we can look up to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and say: *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*, now is another great time to bring *Mashiach Tzidkeinu*. We will hope and pray that it happens. But if, *chas v'shalom*, not yet, we will continue to hope and wait, every day for his arrival, *bimheira b'yameinu*

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Rabbi Avi Berman

Executive Director, OU Israel

**Dedicated In memory of
Judah Leib (Jerry)
Lipschitz z"l**

on his 39th yearzeit - א' אייר - 1977

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and family*

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