

בשבת

BY RABBI AVICHAI BENSOUSSAN
RABBI NETANEL NAAMAT
RABBI NAFTALI ZIONS



AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE

Parshas Shemos records the beginnings of *Klal Yisrael*, how the nation was terribly enslaved by Pharaoh and the Egyptians. As difficult as it was, things took a dreadful turn for the worse when Pharaoh was informed a saviour was to be born to the Jewish nation. In order to deny the Jewish people their freedom, Pharaoh decreed that all Jewish male babies should be thrown into the river, never to be seen again.

Yet, despite Pharaoh's decree, one child managed to survive. Little Moshe, safely ensconced in a basket, not only survived, but was taken in by Pharaoh's own daughter, and raised on Pharaoh's knee. Instead of destroying his sworn enemy, Pharaoh doted on him like a grandfather to a grandchild. Years later, that child grew to be the great *Moshe Rabbeinu*, the leader of *Klal Yisrael*, and the downfall of Pharaoh.

This story seems like poetic justice — the very same person Pharaoh swore to destroy is instead brought up in Pharaoh's own household. However, the Steipler Gaon¹ (Reb Yaakov Yisrael Kanievsky, 1899–1985) sees a deeper idea in this narrative.

Despite Pharaoh's enormous wealth and absolute power, despite his keen desire and myriad soldiers eager to do his bidding, there was no way to stop the will of Hashem. When Hashem decrees something, it is as good as done, and no amount of work will stop it, and conversely, no amount of effort will bring it any faster.

A person can easily get caught up in this world, thinking that if they only did such-and-such, it would bring them wealth, fame, and happiness. Or if only they had foreseen some circumstance, they could have avoided loss, difficulties and sadness.

These thoughts run against the true nature of this world. Hashem runs the world, down to the tiniest detail. If it is decreed by Hashem, it will happen. If not, it will not happen. A lot of heartache, worry, and general apprehension will dissipate when we truly feel it's not our world, it's Hashem's.

Hashem runs the world, down to the tiniest detail. If it is decreed by Hashem, it will happen.

Mind the Gap - Taking the Next Step

Knowing that Hashem is intimately involved in our life is one thing, but feeling it is another. Is there a way to make this intellectual knowledge a part of our true feelings towards Hashem?

The sad truth is that if a person is not attuned to a particular idea, they will naturally have a harder time realizing that idea in their own lives.¹

Therefore, an especially powerful exercise is to spend time focusing on one's personal history. On the causes that brought them to this specific moment in time. With all of the successes, the failures, the ups and downs, and all of the details that had to fall into place, just to bring one to the very spot they are in right now.²

By thinking in this way, a person gains two things — they start to think like a person who recognizes Hashem in their life, and they will in fact see the Hand of Hashem in their life as they study their own history. Seeing Hashem's involvement in one's history will open one's eyes to Hashem's involvement in the present.

¹ *Mesillas Yesarim*, Introduction

² *Michtav M'Eliyahu*, Vol. 1, pg. 196

¹ *Birchas Peretz*, pg. 23

לעיני אמנו וסבתנו
יהודית בת יעקב ע"ה
Edythe Berzansky
נלבית כ"ו טבת

Whose legacy of patience, silence, and generosity of spirit lives on in our hearts.
By the Berzansky and Bensoussan families.

To sponsor please contact us at info@ohr-yisrael.com



It is superfluous to elaborate on the importance of designating time each day to contemplate our purpose in this world. Let us strengthen ourselves in this area... -
Rav A. Y. L. Shteinman zt"l, *Leading with Love*,
Chap. "Mussar Is For Everyone," pg. 135

MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Simcha felt blessed, knowing that his *rebbe* was looking out for him. Simcha first met Rabbi Heimlech when he was in ninth grade. At the time, Rabbi Heimlech was both his ninth grade *rebbe*, and principal. Two years after graduating, Simcha was again in Rabbi Heimlech's *shiur*, as Rabbi Heimlech gave an older *shiur* as well.

Over the years, Simcha had grown very close to his *rebbe*, asking him advice and general life guidance. Rabbi Heimlech knew Simcha very well, so it came as no surprise that Simcha approached Rabbi Heimlech for a *shidduch* suggestion, especially since Rabbi Heimlech was one of the *shadchanim* in the *yeshiva*.

And as Simcha predicted, Rabbi Heimlech did have a suggestion. In fact, reflected Simcha as he was driving to his *vort*, it was a great suggestion indeed!

At the *vort*, Rabbi Heimlech came to wish *mazel tov* to Simcha and his new *kallah*, Hindy. Finding a quiet moment with his *rebbe*, Simcha thanked Rabbi Heimlech profusely, for everything he did, and especially finding his *bashert*. "But I'd like to know, *rebbe*, how did you know things changed?"

"What do you mean?"

"Well, when we were going out, I mentioned that I was planning on staying in *kollel*, and that I would like to be a *rebbe*, and so on. I even said that I would seriously consider moving out of town! And Hindy told me that when she first met you, she was not keen on supporting a husband in *kollel*, and was dead set against moving out of town. But between the time she met you, and the time you suggested Hindy to me, she changed, and her aspirations changed as well.

"So, she must have updated you, no? How else could you have made the suggestion?"

Rabbi Heimlech smiled broadly. "I totally forgot that's what she told me. I just remembered her personality, and I thought it was a good fit. I guess Someone is looking out for you."

**Based on a true story, names have been changed.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Despite the fact that Hashem runs every facet of our lives, He also demands that we take care of ourselves according to the rules of nature.¹
- The fact that the 'underdog' can sometimes defeat a force much greater or powerful is testimony to Hashem's involvement in the world.²

¹ Sefer HaChinuch, Mitzvah 546

² Metzudas Dovid on Tehillim, 33:16, s.v. אין המלך