

Our Most Kosher Story Ever, Guaranteed

Binah Buzz: You asked, we answered! At Binah Magazine, we take pride in the hashkafic discernment of our chashuve olam of readers. When we miss the mark in any area, we welcome your letters pointing out to us the error of our ways, or even occasionally, our descent into heresy, and we try to correct whatever it was that we did wrong. However, we wanted to know if we could do better still. What if, instead of doing damage-control after we made a mistake, we managed to avoid making mistakes in the first place?

We looked high and low for an author who could guarantee that the material that she wrote would be unimpeachable. After a lengthy search, we found her. Please join us in welcoming Tova Masorah, our newest writer, who was hired exclusively to write complaint-proof stories. Her hashkafos are so rock solid, and her writing so comprehensively reflective of the proper outlook in every area, that we are confident no one will be disappointed by her content and tone. But don't take our word for it — read it, and see for yourself.

We present, with great pride, Tova Masorah's first-ever story for Binah Magazine. Enjoy your read with the security that comes from knowing that your most cherished values will be safe with Tova. Please note: For the optimum experience, please read every word, including any footnotes that may be included.

A Wonderful Day

Once upon a time¹, there was a woman² named Gitty. She worked³ ⁴ in a clothing store⁵. One day, she sold fifty skirts. She was happy⁶. She went home⁷ and served⁸ supper⁹ to her family, with iced¹⁰ cupcakes for dessert¹¹. One of her children¹²

1. Use of this phrase is purely stylistic, and is not intended to *chas v'shalom* condone a belief in evolution.

2. Due to our editorial policy, no picture can be provided.

3. This course was undertaken only after consultation with a Rav, a *mekubal*, a doctor, a mentor, a mental health professional, an alternate healer, and a plumber.

4. It goes without saying (but we are saying it anyway) that she viewed this job only as a necessary activity so that her husband could learn, or so that she could supplement their family's income.

5. This store only carried garments that were free of *shatnez* and met the highest standards of *tznius*.

6. This was an appropriate type of happiness that stemmed from gratitude toward Hashem for capping her day's efforts with such success. It is not to be confused with an inappropriate type of happiness that stems from a sense of pride in one's own abilities and good fortune.

7. We mean this literally; in a figurative sense, she was "home" throughout her workday as well.

8. Unlike today's "enlightened woman," Gitty delighted in providing care and service to her family. She knew that she was fulfilling her truest *tafkid* as she brought the platters of food to the table.

9. Her supper was kosher *l'mehadrin*, *pas Yisrael*, *pas b'salo*, *pas haba b'kisnin*, *pas nisht*, *chassidishe shechitah*, *chalav Yisrael*, *Bais Yosef*, *yoshon*, gluten-free, *non-gebrokts*, organic, triple-washed, *mevushal*, non-GMO, and entirely devoid of trans-fats.

10. She used four colors of fondant that she artistically arranged in the shape of an umbrella, and six shades of blue royal icing for rain. This was because it had rained earlier in the day and she liked to have a theme for her dessert. It was a bit of a *patchke*, but so worth it. However, should a woman decide that this allocation of energy is not appropriate for her, based on her own personal life circumstances, energy limitations, or dislike of icing, she is not to feel bad, and will surely find other meaningful ways with which to fill her time and give to her family. She could maybe take up embroidery, for example, or perhaps plant a terrarium. But these are just general ideas and of course she can tailor the specifics to suit her own family's particular needs.

11. There are those who find the idea of serving dessert on a weeknight excessive. While we validate this choice, we believe it is



complained about the cupcakes, and Gitty felt bad¹³. But later that night, her daughters gave her a birthday¹⁴ present: a new *tichel*¹⁵. Gitty felt loved and cared for¹⁶. It had been a wonderful day¹⁷.

not the only *mehalech*, and there is room in a *Torahdig* house for the serving of dessert. Consult your Rav if unsure.

12. Name withheld to avoid any suggestion of *rechilus*, *lashon hara*, or bragging. There are many good books that provide suggestions for dealing with challenging children. We don't want to mention the names of the ones that are not written *al taharas hakodesh*. Inquire at your local Jewish bookstore.

13. Although she realized that this *nisayon* had been tailor-made for her, and was perfectly matched to her unique *techunos hanefesh*, she was not able, at the time of the provocation, to marshal the requisite spiritual strength to avoid any tinge of bad feeling. She did, however, at a calm time, succeed in eradicating that feeling from within herself.

14. Some people feel that celebration of birthdays is not part of a Torah lifestyle, pointing out that the only birthday in the Torah is that of Pharaoh. Others, however, will tell the story of the *Gadol* who always made sure to mark the birthdays of his grandchildren. One could argue that this is merely a concession to the American mindset. However, our Rabbinical board felt it was okay to include this.

15. While Gitty did wear a *sheitel*, she knew that some rabbinic authorities feel that this is not the preferred mode of covering one's hair. However, she did not wish to be conspicuous, which also violates the spirit of *tznius*, by being the first woman in her circles to segue into *tichel*-wearing. Therefore, she tried to accommodate both viewpoints by wearing that cutting edge innovation: a human-hair *tichel*. (Please note that this hair was not from India and is therefore free of any concern of *avodah zarah*.)

16. Material goods, in an ideal world, should not be the source of someone's joy and happiness. It was the affection behind the gift that was the source of Gitty's good feelings, as opposed to the physical gift itself.

17. While no day can be perfectly wonderful without the arrival of Moshiach, we employ here a colloquialism and hope that our readership understands that true joy eludes us until that time, may it come speedily and in our days. ■