

# HASHGACHA PRATIS

Inspirational messages and contemporary stories of hashgacha  
From the Hashgacha Pratis Hotline



Parshiyos Beshalach - Yitro 5781 ■ Issue 58

## HEART TO HEART

Based on shiurim in  
Duties of the Heart, Shaar Bitachon, given on the Hotline

### Failure – Baruch Hashem!

The farmer put much effort into this year's crop. He plowed and weeded planted and fertilized, watered and sprayed pesticide. And yet, nothing grew aside for weeds. How will he react? Will he curse the ground for not cooperating, give it a few good kicks, or hack at it with his hoe? I highly doubt it. The ground is not at fault, as it has no mind to decide whether to grow or not.

Rabbenu Bechaye uses this example to illustrate the proper attitude to other people. In our daily lives we need the help and services of all kinds of people. Some of them don't understand what exactly we want them to do for us. The success or failure of what goes on, however, is not up to them. Just like we wouldn't get angry at the ground for a failed crop, or feel grateful toward it for a good crop, so too we should feel to others. Hashem is the only One who decides what will happen.

When we get used to living with this in mind, we will thank Hashem for everything that happens. Whether it worked out how we wanted or not, whether we were successful or not, we know it was all from Hashem, for our very best. Even if someone didn't do what we asked of him, the results are not in his hands. Every person is just a messenger of Hashem, carrying out His plans for our ultimate *tachlis*.

Sometimes we think, "Why bother doing anything, being that Hashem will determine what happens anyway?!" This is not a correct thought process. Rather, we should always do the proper *hishtadlus*, and hope for the best. This is a very difficult *nisayon* at times, especially when we invest much effort and nothing results. We can't help but think, "Oh, I wasted that morning, or stood in line, or rushed, or called – all for nothing." Instead, we should realize that Hashem knows what is best for us. Don't

be upset over what happened, don't worry about the future – just live in the present, and realize-- it's all good!

The greatness of a Yid lies in his ability to thank Hashem specifically for everyday things and occurrences. The gemara makes a very strange-sounding statement – "From the day Hashem created the world, no one thanked Him, until Leah came along and thanked Him [by saying] 'This time, I will thank Hashem.'" (Berachos 7b) The Ksav Sofer raises a question on this gemara. How is it possible to claim that no one gave praise and thanks to Hashem before Leah? Didn't the Avos build altars to thank Hashem for His kindness to them? He answers that while the Avos only thanked Hashem for the miracles He did for them, Leah added another level by thanking Him for natural occurrences in her life. Childbirth is not a rare phenomenon. Yet when Leah saw she was blessed with yet another child, she thanked Hashem for it. And all Jews are called Yehudim, based on this concept.

The same idea can shed light on the gemara in Shabbos. (118b) The gemara describes a person who says Hallel every day as someone who is "cursing and blaspheming"! We can explain that Hallel is about the major miracles and salvations that Hashem brings us. By focusing just on those major things, a person can miss out on endless reasons to thank Hashem throughout his daily life! As the Ramban says, *yetzias Mitzrayim* taught us "to believe that all the events that happens to us are entirely miraculous; they are not just nature and the way of the world... Everything is a decree from On High."

Let's thank Hashem constantly, for everything that happens!

(From shiur 131 in Shaar Habitachon)

The shiur is aired on Mon. and Thurs. - menu 4 (Yiddish and Hebrew)

## FROM THE EDITOR

### It Doesn't Matter what you Press

This past year, "unbelievable" has become obsolete. What used to be unbelievable is now reality. Our lives can be neatly divided into "before" and "after" the drastic changes that have transformed reality as we once knew it. Likewise, in an internal way, there is life "before" joining the worldwide Kollel of the Hashgachah Pratis line, and life afterwards.

People who were in a state of constant stress and worry for many years, Jews who had lost all interest in life, didn't believe their lives could ever be transformed. Yet suddenly, they discovered a whole new world; a new life of joy and light. They feel they have everything they need. These wonderful people all wish to share the same vital message: Believe that your life can change!

Thousands of messages testify to transformations that these people have experienced by listening to the hashgachah line. Here are some examples:

\*A Yid from America relates:

For the past two years, I haven't had a steady income, and I have also suffered from serious health problems. Despite this, I am able to stay happy and thank Hashem – only because I listen to R' Dovid Kletzkin's shiurim on the Kav. Without this, I don't know how I would survive.

\*A Talmid Chacham shares his inner challenges:

For many years I suffered from low self-esteem; I was constantly sad and disappointed in myself. A few months ago, I started having trouble sleeping. Then I called the Kav and heard Rav Yehuda Mandel's shiur. Since then, my life has literally begun anew!

\*A man with astronomical debts:

I was crushed by debt, and had no idea what to do. I felt awful. Then I started listening to Rav Beirish Shneebalg's shiurim and changed my outlook. Now I have enough money for all my needs!

\*Many people say:

When I have a *nisayon* of anger or something else, I call up the Kav and hear some stories of hashgachah pratis. Then I feel strong enough to handle the situation.

Baruch Hashem, the Hashgachah pratis line is a gift to the world. It is a worldwide kollel for emunah, bitachon, praise and thanks to Hakadosh Baruch Hu! No matter what number you press, you'll get *chizuk* in emunah and bitachon!

"Sometimes, when things are hard, I listen to one of the speakers," a fellow tells me. "Even if I'm not really concentrating on what he's saying, the message of emunah, 'gam zu l'tovah,' and 'everything Hashem does is for the best' infiltrates into my consciousness!"

Everyone is invited to join – men, women and children. A couple minutes is enough to give *chizuk* for the whole day! Try it yourself!

Good Shabbos, Pinchas Shefer

You can also join the many Jews who have changed their lives, by calling:

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• Kav Hashgacha Pratis for women  
(Yiddish and Hebrew) - Menu 4

# THE HAND OF HASHEM

Amazing stories of hashgacha pratis, as told on the hotline

## Candies from Heaven

I have diabetes since my youth. Sometimes my sugar level drops dangerously low, and I have to eat something sweet immediately.

It was Friday night, Shabbos Chanukah. I was coming home from a tisch, walking through a park, when I suddenly felt my sugar level drop! I started feeling weak and dizzy – but I didn't have anything to put in my mouth. I didn't know what to do. I sat down on a bench and davened in my heart for Hashem to save me.

Just then, an avreich walked by. I know him a little bit from the neighborhood. I asked him if he had a candy for me.

He smiled. "Yes, I do," he said, and gave me the life-saving candy. You can imagine what a heartfelt brachah I made!

Then he told me how he had gotten the candy. He was walking along a few minutes before, and a boy sitting in his window thought it would be funny to throw candies at people passing by. The man received two on his head! He decided Hashem had sent them, and put them into his pocket. Minutes later, he walked past me, and put the candies to good use. Yes, Hashem had sent them for me!

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## 100 times more!

My name is Yosef Tzvi Goldstein. A relative of mine was making a chasunah, so I went around trying to raise money for him. I would go into shuls and make my rounds – but I was very careful not to disturb the davening. I didn't want to talk to anyone during kaddish or kedushah.

One fellow was about to give me a coin, but kaddish had started, so I motioned him to wait. After kaddish, I turned back to him. The man then said he was so impressed with my *hakpadah* that he wanted to give me more money than he had originally planned.

How much more? He had originally planned on giving me 5 shekels, and instead he gave 500! A person who is careful with halachah only stands to gain!

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## The Zechus of Tefillin

Someone caught corona and was very seriously ill. Unfortunately, the virus spread through his body, damaging his arm to the extent that doctors said they would have to amputate it.

Meanwhile, his daughter got married, but he wasn't even able to attend the wedding. His new son-in-law wanted to help him, and found out that the man had a *sheilah* about his tefillin. He sent the tefillin to be checked, and found that indeed they were *possul*. He arranged for the expensive repairs to be made.

*That very day*, the family received the good news that the patient had taken a turn for the better. Not only that, but because of the improvement in his situation, they were able to consider

## Fruits for Tu Bi'shvat

Reb Nota Slonim told over this story from Reb Dovid Sofer from Beit Shemesh.

It was Tu Bi'shvat, one year ago. I really wanted to get some fruits for the family, but my wife had given birth only a few days earlier. I was just too busy running around trying to juggle everything, and I didn't get to it. That day, my wife came home with the baby from the *Beit Hachlamah*, and I finally remembered – I wanted to buy fruits! But there was no time. I sighed, and asked Hashem – please send us some fruit!

I went down to the mailboxes to get our mail. On the way back, waiting for the elevator to take me to my third-floor apartment, I began opening the letters – we hadn't been home in a week. The elevator came, I got in – but it went down instead of up, to a lower floor. Meanwhile, I continued opening up the mail. The doors opened again and I walked out, somewhat preoccupied with what I was reading. I assumed it had arrived on my floor, so went to my door, knocked and entered.

I had walked into the wrong house! The elevator had stopped on the *first* floor, and I had unwittingly entered the home of Rabbi Yudel Neishloss, a posek on the Badatz! I was so embarrassed, but the Rav welcomed me with a smile, wished me a warm mazal tov and asked how we were doing.

Then he led me over to his dining room table, which was covered in Tu Bi'shvat platters, sent by his talmidim and followers. "Please take a few of these, and happy Tu Bi'shvat!" he said.

I marveled at the hashgachah pratis and how Hashem had answered my tefillos. Walking into the house, I announced, "Look – Hashem sent us fruits for Tu Bi'shvat!"

(Bitachon Yomi in Five Minutes, Wednesday Parshas Va'eira #73. 2-0)

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## The Check

My brother called me one day and asked if I could give him cash for his check. He was sick in bed, and needed the money urgently.

"No problem," I said. "But how can I cash it – it says '*lamutav bilvad*' (for the beneficiary only) on it?"

My brother is a resourceful fellow. "Nu, my name is Moshe, you're Yisrael. Just add your name onto it, and they'll think you have two names – Yisrael Moshe!" (Ask a Rav if this is legal.)

I was skeptical, but went along with the plan. Sure enough, my fears came true – the teller refused to accept it. I took it home and put it in an envelope under my pillow, where I sometimes keep my money. A few days later, I added a large amount of money of my own to the envelope.

I forgot to tell my wife I had put the envelope there. When she did the laundry sometime later, the envelope joined the rest of the bedding in the washing machine...

All that remained were some bits of paper... I said "gam zu l'tovah" and went on with life.

The next day, someone called up my brother and said he had found his check! What happened? Somehow, it survived the wash, and when my wife hung the laundry, it fell out, along with my money, into the narrow alley next to our house. Next door to my home is Yeshivas Mir. An avreich walked by, saw the check with my brother's name and number on it, and did *hashavas aveidah*.

I think the zechus of trying to help my brother saved my money!

alternative treatment for his arm.

Baruch Hashem, the treatment was successful, and by the time the tefillin were ready, the arm was completely healed!

Moreover, how was the newly married young man able to afford the expensive repairs? The day he needed to pay the sofer, an uncle from America came to visit and presented him with a gift for the wedding. It was the exact amount of money he needed!

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## Giving is Receiving

I am a Rebbi in a cheder. One year, I made a party in my house on an evening shortly before Purim. The boys brought over mishloach manos, and many included an envelope with money, as is the custom. After the party, my wife cleaned up and put all the money together in one envelope. Later, I told her I want to give *maaser* from it to my brother-in-law, an esteemed talmid chacham. She told me she had put the envelope in the breakfront. I looked there, but couldn't find it. "Maybe someone moved it," my wife suggested. "You can ask the kids tomorrow. Don't worry about it."

However, I wanted to give the *maaser* money that day already. I didn't want to push off doing a mitzvah. I thought about it, and realized that we had thrown out the other envelopes after consolidating all the money into one envelope. Perhaps someone had accidentally thrown out the envelope with the money as well! We had already taken the garbage bag down to the dumpster.

I immediately went down to the dumpster and saw our bag peeking out. Nu, so I got gloves, picked through it – and found the envelope! If I hadn't been so eager to do the mitzvah, I would've lost all the money (and the mitzvah as well)!

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## Giving is Receiving II

Hi, this is Dov from central Israel. I was listening to the Kav, and heard the story of the Rebbi who found his money because he wanted to give *maaser* right away. It reminded me of a story that happened to me many years ago.

One night in shul, between mincha and maariv, a man wandered over to me, looking worried. He was a bit of a nebach in the neighborhood. "Do you have a thermometer?" he asked me.

I had a thermometer at home. Maariv was about to start in a few minutes; I could walk home with him afterwards and give it to him. But then, I thought, he was obviously really worried about himself; it would be a bigger mitzvah to save him a few extra minutes of *agamas nefesh*. So I told him I would run home and get it for him.

I came to my apartment, turned the key in the door – and the door stopped partway. The chain was on. How could the chain be on, if nobody was home? It must be a thief! I quickly took off the chain, bracing myself for danger...

I swung the door open and heard someone climbing out the window and down the tree he had come up on. Baruch Hashem, nothing was touched in the house! It seemed he had just come in, when I came home, stopping him in his tracks.

Imagine if I hadn't gone home to do the favor for that Jew – the guy could have robbed and ransacked my whole house...

# Q's & A's

Q's & A's about emunah and bitachon

Our family has a certain stigma which makes shidduchim difficult. My daughter skipped ahead of two brothers and got engaged; we're all struggling to be mechazek each other. Maybe we should just give up the chizuk and just accept that it's ratzon Hashem?

Q #12

L. B., Ganei Tikvah

**Many people answered along these lines:** You have to know that the situation is ratzon Hashem. Once you know that, you don't fall into yivush, but instead strengthen your emunah and bitachon. This is not an easy madreiga, but if you work at it, accepting it with love and joy, that will bring the yeshuah.

### The hidden good

**Reb Chaim Meir Wasserman, Bnei Brak:** It says, "40 days before a child is born, they announce bas Plony to Plony." Your children also had that. Gedolim said not to worry about a family's yichus.

**Reb Refael Menachem Toisig, Yerushalayim:** Don't forget that the same One who gave you the tzarah will also give you the yeshuah! It's not the stigma that delaying the shidduchim, but Hashem's plans!

### The gates of tefilla never close

**Reb Yair Chaim Ribni, Beit Shemesh:** Rabbi Yaakov Yisroel Lugassi shlit" a told me that someone once asked him why he had davened for a dira but didn't get it. He answered him that the point wasn't the dira – Hashem had wanted him to daven! He just thought he needed a dira. So too with you – Hashem wants to hear your tefillos. Don't give up.

**Reb Yosef Mimon, Ohr Chaim, Tzfas:** The Rambam in Hilchos Tefilla says to "daven according to your ability" – that's the way to have them answered. Don't try to do more than you can do.

**Reb Avraham Goodman, Kiryat Sefer:** You sound like you think it's a stirah to both try different things to help yourselves and at the same time accept it. It's not! A Yid opens his Tehillim and pours out his heart – he obviously is not just accepting it. Yet, after that, until anything changes, he accepts the situation with love, knowing Hashem is doing him only good.

**Reb Yosef Mayer, Tifrach:** Let me quote for you the beautiful lashon of the Sfias Emes (Vayigash 5631): Whenever there is a time of tzaar and hiddenness [of Hashem] from a Jew, the advice is to nullify himself to Hashem's will... In any tight place, a Jew can ask from Hashem... And when he is mevatal himself to the truth and asks for help to be saved – he is answered! (see there)

**Reb Yehuda Gewirtzman, Beit Shemesh:** You see, your daughter already got engaged, anyway! You can trust that the others will follow, may it be soon.

**Reb Dovid Leifer, Yerushalayim:** If shidduchim are not going easily, it's a sign that something very good is in store for you. "Good things come hard," they say. It takes a while to find a diamond. You say you have a "slight pggam" – that sounds like except for that, everything else is fine. Thank Hashem for those things!

### Composure and joy

**Reb Dovid Yisroel, Beit Shemesh:** You can either look at it that it's ratzon Hashem, but with sadness; or with joy! It's better to accept it with simcha. That will bring the yeshuah.

**Reb Shlomo Shimon Rotman, Beit Shemesh:** Mazal tov on your daughter's engagement! May you soon marry off your other children. Once a man came to Rav Eliyahu Roth zt"l, complaining that he couldn't find a shidduch for his daughter. Reb Elya told him, "What – you got married? Be happy and thank Hashem! What, you even have a daughter? Thank Him some more! And she's healthy and smart and everything? More shevach and hodaah!" That's the way to get a yeshuah – look for the good.

**Reb Refael Sheinberger, Yerushalayim:** Yes, this is a very hard situation. But, panic and stress hold back the yeshuah. Keep calm and hope for the best.

**Reb Boruch Hakohen, Bnei Brak:** Your tzaar is not letting you view the situation objectively. Very

## Effects on Two Ends

On the receiving end

I bought a new shtreimel, and the first week I wore it my son spilled his drink on it. I don't have to say what would've happened if I wasn't an ardent listener of the Kav! Since I do listen, I just smiled and said "Gam zu l'tovah." Thank you for the zikui harabim!

Y. Sh., Yerushalayim

On the giving end

A few years after our wedding, my wife began searching for a job as a teacher. I promised that if she would find a job, I would donate a fifth of her paycheck for the first 3 months to Machon Shaar Habitachon. Baruch Hashem, she found a job!

E. V., Bnei Brak

### Question for issue 60

We say every day in shemoneh esrei, "And give good reward for all who trust in Your Name, truly." 1) Why do we ask for reward davka for bitachon, which we don't find anywhere else? 2) What's "truly" mean – what other kind is there? 3) Why davka for bitachon we ask, "Put our lot with them?" M. A. S., Yerushalayim

**To send in questions or answers:** Leave a message on the Hotline at 02-301-1300 menu 3 ext. 5 (Yiddish or Hebrew) | Email: s023011300@gmail.com | Fax: 02-659-9189 - Until Sunday Parashat Mishpatim.

Replies must include your full name and city Names of questioners are printed with initials and city

## A Thought on Bitachon

From the shiurim on Kav Hashgacha Pratis

A fine, upstanding avreich came to speak to me. He feels he is living in gehenom in this world, because people in his family bother him, and put him down. He feels like a nebach, and is constantly complaining about his lot in life.

I told him: It's time to let go! When you agonize over the things people say, you get insulted, and feel you want to bury yourself alive – what do you get out of these feelings? Heartache! This avreich needs to figure out a sugya in life called "kavod." He is unaware that he is constantly pursuing honor, and that the need for it plays a major part in his world. He doesn't realize he has to work on his middos and to let it go.

There was a great tzaddik in America, the Kapishnitzer Rebbe, Rav Avraham'nu. Rav Aharon Kotler held him in very high esteem. Once, Rav Aharon was on his way to the airport when he remembered that he hadn't said goodbye to Rav Avraham'nu. Rav Aharon told his driver to turn around and go back to the Rebbe's Beis Hamedrash! It was Rosh Chodesh, so they had to wait a while until they finished davening. Someone asked Rav Aharon what he revered about the Rebbe. Rav Aharon answered, "The Torah purifies a person. Rav Avraham is already purified!"

I once asked one of the Rebbe's close chassidim to tell me something about him. (My family has a connection to him – my grandmother was his babysitter.) This is what he told me: "The Rebbe never got insulted. During the Holocaust, the Nazis, wanting to degrade him, gave him a broom and

Excerpts from the popular shiur by Harav Yehuda Mandel shlit" a from Lakewood

### Rabboisai! It's Time to Let Go!

ordered him to sweep the streets. He swept the streets – with simcha! He was never offended or saddened."

One of the problems of our generation is that we're too sensitive and self-involved. We get insulted over every little thing. One wrong word, and we're terribly pained. Chazal say, regarding an *istenist* (an overly sensitive person) that his life isn't a life. They weren't referring exactly to this, but this qualifies as well.

You tell someone a vort on the parshah. He gets all defensive, "Yeah, I know, you're giving me mussar." No – you're just trying to say a vort!

People walk around all upset: "They don't think highly of me. They don't hold of me." What is so terrible? Perhaps someone didn't give you enough respect, according to your lofty stature?!

Rav Chaim Mordechai Weinkranz zt"l, the Rosh Vaad of Novardhok in New York, once told me that in heaven they're going to punish a person for every little bit of *agamas nefesh* he had! Everything that Hashem does is for the best!

Rabboisai, the time has come for each one of us to decide that we are not going to be offended anymore! I won't enter a state of deep shock if someone doesn't respect me. I don't need anyone to respect me. (Obviously, though, we don't have to purposely do things so that people won't respect us.) Get used to laughing things off!

In this way, we can rid ourselves of the negative pursuit of kavod, which Chazal say removes a person from this world.

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