



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פרשת לך לך

Olam Haba From a Math Test

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Olam Haba From a Math Test

“Next week, Thursday,” announced Mr. Pickleburger to his eighth grade students, “will be your trigonometry midterm! I advise you to get busy studying tonight because you’re going to need all the help you can get. No multiple choice this time!”

“Why does life have to be so hard?!” Dovy muttered on his way home from school, angrily kicking a stone into the street. “Who needs trigonometry or whatever it’s called anyhow? It’s not like I’m going to be building a bridge or something!” Dovy watched a pigeon jump away from the stone and then quickly fly off, and he wished he could also fly away from his problems.

“Hi, Ma!” Dovy called out as he walked into the house. “My throat is hurting; I don’t think I’m going to be able to go to English next week Thursday,” he said as he ran into his bedroom.

But Dovy knew that he was going to be going to school and that he was going to have to take the test. So he opened his math book and began to memorize all the complicated math problems that he might need to know in case he would have to build a bridge one day and he wouldn’t have his math book on him.

Knock-knock. Dovy knew that knock – it was Totty. “Come in,” said Dovy as he stood up for his father.

“Dovy,” said Totty. “A few weeks ago at the seudah you asked me a good question about Avraham Avinu and Sarah Imeinu, who didn’t have children until they were very old. You wanted to know why Hashem would make things difficult for tzaddikim.”

“Well, at the Rav’s *daf yomi shiur* tonight I learned the answer. You should know that you’re on your way to becoming a talmid chochom, because the Gemara in Masichta Yevamos asks your question!”

“The Gemara answers like this: ‘The Avos had to suffer because Hashem loves to hear when they daven.’ He wanted to get them to daven, and He made problems for them so that they would daven to Him.”

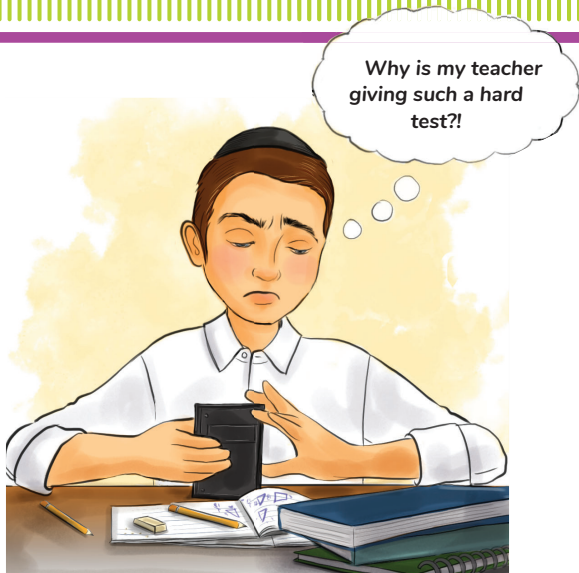
But Dovy wasn’t so happy with that answer. “Just because Hashem liked it when Avraham davened to Him, He had to make Avraham suffer?”

“Beautiful question!” said Dovy’s totty. “That’s exactly what our neighbor, Mr. Deckelbaum, asked the Rav!

“The Rav explained that we are alive in order to get a feeling in our bones that Hashem is real. This world is not really all that important, and life goes by quicker than you think! But Olam Haba is forever. And the best way to get to Olam Haba is by thinking about Hashem and talking to Him as often as you can.

“And because we’re alive to remember Hashem, so Hashem helps us. When do we remember to think about Hashem if not when we have a problem? When you need something badly, that’s when you think about Hashem most.

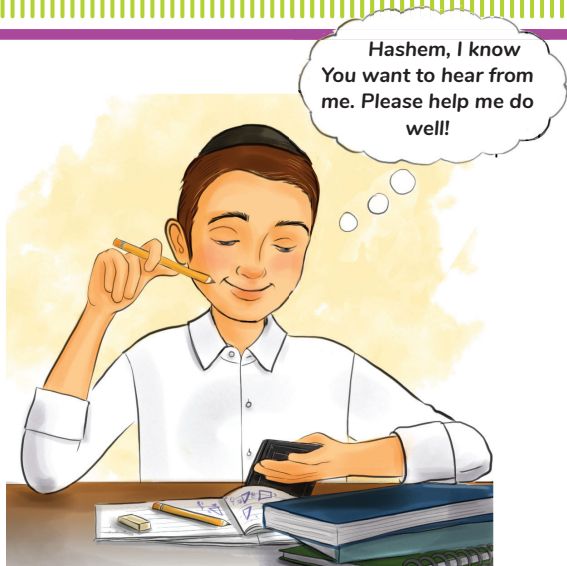
“And because Avraham was such a big tzaddik, who spent his whole life trying to come close to Hashem, Hashem encouraged him even more by bringing some problems into his life, so that he would daven more and become greater and greater. Although he may have been missing out a bit on Olam Hazeah, he more than made up for it by what he earned in Olam Haba.



“Avraham grabbed those opportunities! As much as he could, every free second he had, he spoke to Hashem and asked Him for help. And each time Avraham looked up to Hashem and said, ‘Please, Hashem, help me,’ he became more and more perfect.

“The Rav said that we have the same opportunity as Avraham did. Every little bump in the road is Hashem reminding us to speak to Him and ask Him for help. And then even if you’re stuck with the problem, even if things don’t work out the way you wanted, you still became greater because you spoke to Hashem. And that was what Hashem really wanted from you all along.”

“Wow, Totty!” said Dovy. “That’s unbelievable! It’s exactly what I needed to hear. Now I know that even if I never need to know the math that I’m studying now, as long as I keep asking Hashem for help while I’m studying, I already accomplished something important with this math test. Hashem is waiting for my tefillos, and the more I ask Him for help, the more Olam Haba I’ll be getting.”



Have a wonderful Shabbos !

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