



# Toras Avigdor

## Junior

Adapted from the teachings  
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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## Brachos For Everyone!



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## Brachos For Everyone!

Shimmy was sitting with his classmates and the hundreds of other boys who had gone on the trip to Yeshivas Torah Tavlin. He felt so grown up, like a real yeshiva bochur, sitting and learning in the beis midrash. And the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Nathan, was giving a special shiur just for the boys! Shimmy was so excited to actually be in the same room as one of the gedolei hador.

But one thing bothered Shimmy. His zaidy had always told him the story of how when he was a little boy he went to the beis medrash of Rav Moshe Feinstein, zt”l, and even got a brachah from him. But this morning, when Shimmy and all the other boys lined up to shake the Rosh Yeshiva’s hand, it was so quick; the Rosh Yeshiva just shook his hand, said “Shalom Aleichem,” and that was it. He wanted a “real” experience with a gadol, like his zaidy had!

So when Rabbi Cohen told the boys that before leaving everyone would line up again to say goodbye to the Rosh Yeshiva, Shimmy decided that now was his chance.

Shimmy watched as all the other boys walked past the Rosh Yeshiva and shook his hand as he said “Brachah v’hatzlachah” and moved on. “I’m gonna do something,” thought Shimmy to himself. “I want to call Zeidy tonight and tell him that I also got a brachah from a gadol.” But as the line got shorter and shorter and Shimmy got closer and closer to the Rosh Yeshiva, he began to have second thoughts. What does a little boy say to a gadol?

And so, when Shimmy’s turn came, he just said the first thing that came to his mind. He put on the biggest smile he could, stuck out his hand, and said loudly, “Shalom Aleichem!”

The Rosh Yeshiva grasped Shimmy’s hand and answered “Amein!” Then he smiled and asked Shimmy his name.

Shimmy was confused. “My name is Shimmy. But I don’t understand. All I said was Shalom Aleichem; why did the Rosh Yeshiva say Amein?”

“Because Shalom Aleichem is a brachah,” the Rosh Yeshiva said. “You just gave me a brachah — you said that Hashem should bentch me with everything good!”

“Wow,” Shimmy said. “I gave a brachah to the Rosh Yeshiva?! Everyone here is getting brachos, but I gave a brachah? So how will I get a brachah now?”

The Rosh Yeshiva chuckled. “That’s a great question, Shimmy. You know the Gemara asks something very similar.

“The Gemara asks: The kohanim give us brachos (during duchening) — but who gives brachos to the kohanim? The kohanim are always bentsching us, but they’re missing out on getting the brachos. They also want to get all of those good things. Why should they miss out?

“The answer is,” said the Rosh Yeshiva, “that Hashem told Avraham Avinu **וְאַבְרָהָהּ מְבָרְכֶיךָ** — I will bless those who bless you. That means that whenever somebody gives a brachah to a Yid, Hashem Himself gives that person a brachah!

“Shimmy, think about it — everybody here got a brachah from a plain person like me, but you gave me a brachah so you got a brachah from Hashem himself!

“Come, I want to show you something,” said the Rosh Yeshiva, still holding Shimmy’s hand as he led him to the window.



The Rosh Yeshiva pointed out the window. “Shimmy, do you see all of the houses in the neighborhood? Hundreds of Yidden live in those houses. Every morning after Shacharis, I stand here by this window and I say ‘Good morning, Yidden!’ to everyone.”

“Wow!” said Shimmy. “You call up so many people every morning? It must take so much time!”

“No, Shimmy. I don’t call them on the phone. I just stand here by the window and wish them all a good morning.”

Shimmy looked up. “But they can’t hear you,” he said, “so why do you say good morning from here?”

“They don’t need to hear!” answered the Rosh Yeshiva. “Hashem hears! Hashem wants all of us to give brachos to each other. And when they don’t hear you, that means you’re not doing it just so they think you’re a nice person. It means you’re doing it because you love other Yidden and then the brachah is really coming from your heart.

“Shimmy, this is something you can start practicing every day! Tomorrow, when you say good morning to your friends, after you walk away, say (quietly, so they don’t think you’re talking to yourself!) ‘You should really have a good morning! You should enjoy your breakfast and have fun by recess!’ That’s the real way to give a brachah. And every time you do that, Hashem will say, ‘Ah! Look at my Shimmy! He loves My people so much that he’s giving them brachos! Because of that, I will give Shimmy brachos as well!’”

“Thank you so much,” said Shimmy as they walked back to the Rosh Yeshiva’s shtender. “I will never forget what you just taught me. I’m going to try to start right away.”

As Shimmy walked back towards his class, he looked at the long line of boys who were all staring at him, amazed that he had such a long conversation with the Rosh Yeshiva. “Have a wonderful evening,” Shimmy said to his friends quietly so that nobody could hear. “You should all have a safe ride home and sleep well so you can serve Hashem with strength tomorrow!”

**Have a Wonderful Shabbos !**