



# Toras Avigdor

## Junior

Adapted from the teachings  
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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## Seeing is Believing

Dedicated in loving memory of

Joseph & Grace Gindi



# Seeing is Believing

## Rabbi Cohen's Classroom

"And so boys," said Rabbi Cohen, "Moshe Rabbeinu so badly wanted to see Eretz Yisroel before he would be nifter that he davened many many times that Hashem let him go in and see it."

Shimmy raised his hand. "Rebbi, I chapp the idea about davening a lot, but there's one thing I don't understand," he said. "Hashem told Moshe Rabeinu all about Eretz Yisroel. He told him about the beautiful land and the tasty fruit. And Moshe Rabeinu believed Hashem a hundred percent, right? So what was so important for him that he needed to see it before he would be nifter?"

Rabbi Cohen smiled. "One minute," he said as he walked out of the classroom, leaving the boys confused.

Rabbi Cohen soon returned with the eighth grade science teacher, Mr. Gross, who was pushing a cart with the school's projector! "What's going on?" wondered Shimmy. Everyone in the yeshiva knew that Mr. Gross was a ben Torah who spent a lot of time learning, but what did that have to do with seeing Eretz Yisroel? Maybe Mr. Gross was going to show them pictures of the Kosel?"

"Good morning, boys. I'm sure you've all heard of the term 'galaxy' before," he said, turning to the class. "Do any of you know what it means?"

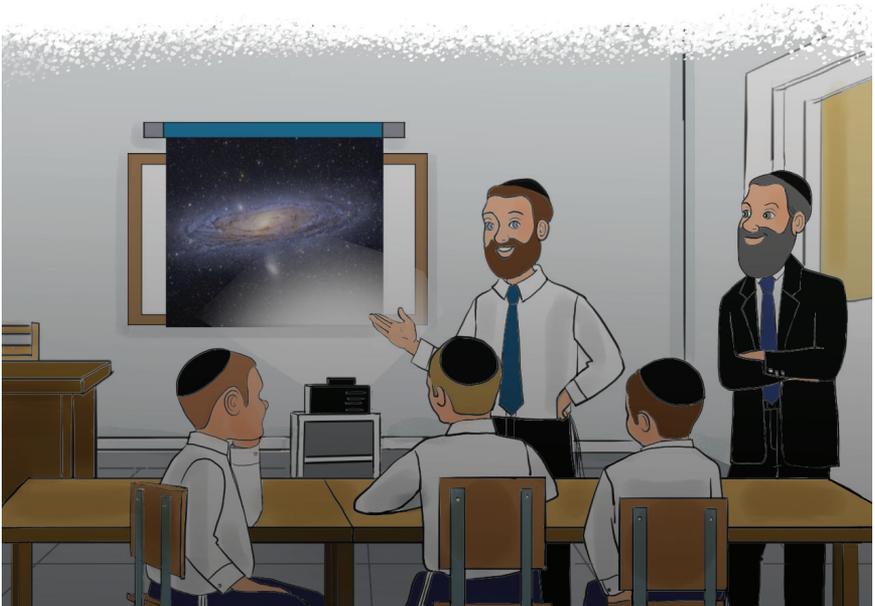
All the boys in the class turned to Motty — he was the class expert on science stuff. "It's a huge collection of billions of stars and their solar systems as well as gas and dust all held together by gravitational attraction!" Motty said confidently.

"Wow!" said Mr. Gross. "I couldn't have said it better myself! Motty is exactly right. The galaxy we live in has billions of stars and Hashem created billions of galaxies. That means billions of galaxies with each one having billions of stars. Can you even guess what a billion times a billion is?"

Everyone looked at Motty again. Math was a cinch for him. “A billion times a billion is 10 to the eighteenth power,” Motty said. “It’s called a quintillion.”

“Well, uh, ummm,” said Mr. Gross. “That sounds just about right, Motty. It’s a remarkable fact that there are tons of stars above us and many of them are even bigger than the sun. And the truth is that if I would leave the room right now, I’m sure that you’d all believe me. Everyone here would know that when Hashem made the world, besides for everything else He made, He also created a quintillion stars. But I want to show you something now.”

There was a click as Mr. Gross turned on the projector and shut the lights and the boys looked excitedly at the pictures they saw on the whiteboard. Mr. Gross pointed at the colorful picture. “This is not a drawing; it’s an actual photograph of the Andromeda Galaxy, taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. You are seeing a picture of a TRILLION stars! This one galaxy that Hashem made is so big that even if we would be traveling in a spaceship it would take us **more than a hundred thousand years** to travel from this star in the corner of the picture to the star on the other end.”



As Mr. Gross spent the next fifteen minutes showing the boys some of the many pictures he had, everyone was sitting with their eyes wide open in shock. They had learned all about this in their fifth grade science class, but they couldn't believe that it was so real! There were mammish billions of stars; it was so crowded with colors and light that it almost looked like a fog of dust.

"So boys," Rabbi Cohen said when Mr. Gross finally put on the lights, "we owe Mr. Gross a big yasher koach because he just gave us the answer to Shimmy's question about why Moshe Rabeinu wanted to see Eretz Yisroel. Rav Avigdor Miller explained that it's one thing to know something but it's a totally different thing when you see it with your own eyes. Just like all of us **knew** about the greatness of Hashem, and about His power and strength, but when we were looking at these pictures of His creations, it became a whole new type of knowing – it becomes so much more real.

And because Moshe Rabeinu knew that a Jew's purpose in this world is to believe in Hashem more and more and more every day, that's why he so badly wanted to at least see Eretz Yisroel with his own eyes – he wanted to **see** the gift that Hashem was giving the Am Yisroel.

And that's why Rav Miller always told his talmidim that as much as possible we should look at His beautiful creations and see what He made. Stop for a minute to look at how the tree trunk is growing. Pick up a leaf and study the veins that bring water vitamins to the entire leaf. Look at a colorful flower and see how complicated it really is – how many parts it's made up of. Because the more you see of Hashem's creations with your own eyes, the more you believe in Hashem, and that's the reason we came into this world.

## Have a Wonderful Shabbos !



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