



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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שְׂמִיחָה

Being Led

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Parshas Shemos

Being Led

Yaakov sat in class listening to Rebbi's dvar Torah. Rav Raanan's divrei torah were always interesting and practical.

“So let's review the two pshatim,” Rav Raanan was saying as Yaakov came back from his thoughts. “*The daughter of Pharaoh sent out amasah to save Moshe from drowning in the river.*’ What does amasah mean? One pshat is that Basya bas Pharaoh sent out her maidservant to grab the basket. And the second pshat is that she sent out her hand – it was a neis – that it stretched out and she was able to grab onto the edge of the basket.”

Yaakov raised his hand, “But Rebbi! I want to know what really happened! Which pshat is right?”

“Very good question Yaakov. In Rav Avigdor Miller's sefer he explains that both are true. First she sent one of her servant girls to fetch the basket but it seemed to be too far out so the girl gave up. She came back and told Basya, ‘I'm sorry – I tried but I can't reach it'.

What happened next? One of the strangest things ever! Basya waded into the river and tried to grab the basket herself, but it was just too far out. So she stretched her hand as much as she could but still her fingers didn't reach. The basket was already floating further out, heading for the sea where it would go lost forever. But she didn't give up! She stretched out a little more and suddenly her hand seemed to be stretching. And finally her fingers suddenly grabbed onto the edge of the basket and Basya had saved Moshe Rabeinu!

But Rebbi, said Chaim, “Why should Pharaoh's daughter have the zchus to have such a miracle done for her; that her arm should become extra long?

“Chazal tell us that she was going to toivel to become a Yid. That means that she so strongly wanted to join Hashem and the Am Yisroel that she was willing to give up her royalty and join her father's enemies! And “*b'derech she'adam rotzeh laleches, molichin oso*”. *If you really want, if you show Hashem that you want, He helps you.*

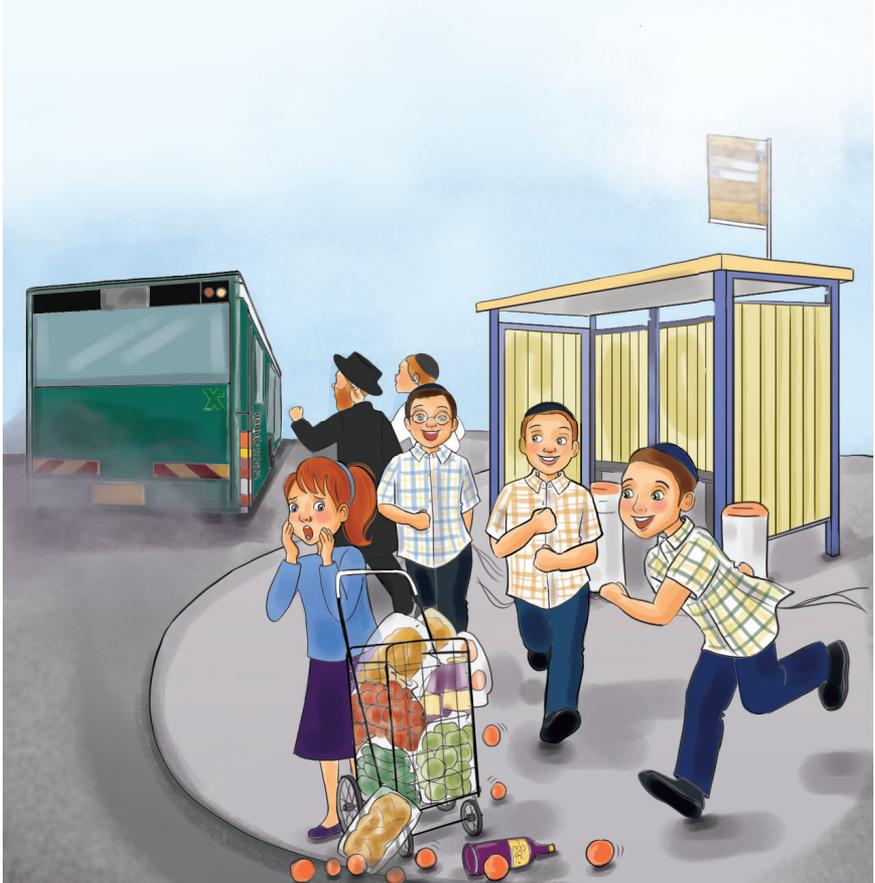
So of course, the Mitzri servant girls didn't care enough to get Moshe. They had no interest in saving a Yiddische baby. But Basya loved yidden, she wasn't going to give up just because she couldn't reach. She went as far into the water as possible and stuck out her arm until it hurt! She did everything she could and then Hashem helped her so that her arm would reach the basket.

“Now boys; there’s a great lesson for us here because it means that we also can grow long arms and have stretchable fingers if we want.”

Suddenly, all of the boys looked up at Rav Raanan. “Stretchable fingers?! What is Rebbi talking about?!”

Rav Raanan continued: “The Torah tells us this story because Hashem wants us to learn this lesson of ‘In the way that you really want to go, Hashem will help you go.’ It means that nothing is out of reach if you try your best because once you start really wanting, once you do the best you can, Hashem comes along and helps you. He makes things happen to help you along. And if Hashem is helping you then anything could be!”

Just then the dismissal bell rang and the boys packed up their stuff and headed down the stairs. As Yaakov and his friends walked to the bus stop they were talking about Rav Raanan’s dvar Torah. “I was just thinking today that it’s



so hard to become a tzadik,” said Yaakov, “but today Rebbi gave us the answer! Instead of thinking about how impossible it is, if we start wanting it more, Hashem will help us.”

“Yeah,” said Elazar, “if we decide that we want more mitzvos and we look out for them, Hashem will give us opportunities to do more mitzvos. And once we start on the way of doing more mitzvos, one day we can all end up being tzadikim like Moshe Rabeinu, just like Rebbi said last week.”

“Let’s try that,” said Chaim to Elazar and Yaakov. “From now on let’s daven to Hashem that he should give us opportunities to do mitzvos. If all three of us daven every day, Hashem will help us and give us a lot of mitzvos to do. Why should we wait till we get older to start being tzadikim. Let’s learn the lesson from Basya and start now. Deal?”

“Deal!” said Yaakov and Chaim together as all three boys got to the bus stop just as their bus stopped to pick them up.

As the three boys were about to get on the bus they saw a little girl pushing a cart full of Shabbos groceries; but the cart tipped, spilling all of the Shabbos food on the sidewalk.

“Look, a mitzvah! Let’s go help out” yelled Chaim. He was already imagining his arm getting longer as he reached over to pick up the grape juice rolling away.

“But we’ll miss the bus and have to wait another 15 minutes!” said Elazar.

“Who cares?”, said Yaakov. “This is our big chance to show Hashem what we really want. Hashem gave us a mitzvah to do as soon as we wanted it, if we run after mitzvos he’ll give us more chances. And if we want it enough, He’ll even help us with nissim – He’ll make things work out so that we should become bigger and bigger tzadikim. Just like Rebbi said: “In the way that you really want to go, Hashem will help you go.”

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!



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