

See the Signs

By: A. Ben-Ami

Illustrations by: M. Weinreb

Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

Recap: Mayor McGillicuddy was seriously injured when his car crashed into a school bus. He was speeding around town promoting his "Save a Life with McGillicuddy" project.

"Moishy," said Shmuli as the two boys walked into their classroom. "Can you believe that Mayor McGillicuddy won the election against Dudu Manor? I thought it would have been so great to have a Jewish mayor from Eretz Yisroel here in University City. It's a shame Dudu lost."

"Well my neighbor didn't think that him being from Eretz Yisroel was anything special," Moishy replied. "You should read the Toras Avigdor Junior from Parshas Re'eh, where they explain that Eretz Yisroel is special when there is Torah and frum Jews there. But Dudu Manor isn't frum and when he lived in Eretz Yisroel he didn't live among frum Jews."

Just then, the boys' rebbe, Rabbi Bromberg, entered the classroom.

"Come boys," Rabbi Bromberg said. "We're going on a niflaos haborei walk."

"What's a 'niflaos haborei walk'?" asked Mordechai curiously.

Rabbi Bromberg smiled. "My rebbi, Rav Shmuel Berg z"l, was a talmid of Rav Avigdor Miller, who used to regularly take his talmidim on such walks, and they would observe all of the amazing different things that Hashem created for us."

"Wow, that sounds fun!" said Shimmy.



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“It’s more than ‘fun,’” Rabbi Bromberg said. “Every time I go on one of these walks it makes me think more about the nissim which Hakadosh Baruch Hu does for us. Not only is it enjoyable, but it will bring us closer to Hashem – which is the real fun!”

As the boys followed Rabbi Bromberg out of the school, they wondered where they would be going that they could see actual nissim. But Rabbi Bromberg didn’t appear to be taking them anywhere specific. In fact, as soon as they started walking down the block he started pointing out the leaves on the towering oak and maple trees and how many amazing things one could learn from even a single leaf.

All of a sudden, as Rabbi Bromberg was showing them how Hashem designed the maple seed to fly like a helicopter so the tree could spread its seeds to plant new trees far away, the children heard the familiar screeching of tires and looked up to see Mayor McGillicuddy once again flying down the road in his sports car, this time holding up a sign that read “Be Safe on the Roads”.

As the car sped off, jumping for a moment on the sidewalk before vanishing in the distance, Moishy said “oh look! Mayor McGillicuddy is doing teshuva!”

“Yeah,” Shmuli added. “He’s been putting road safety signs everywhere ever since he got out of the hospital after his accident!”

“Ahem, I don’t think he’s doing teshuva,” said Rabbi Bromberg in a stern voice.

“But why not, rebbe?” Moishy asked. “He’s now going around with a sign telling people to be safe on the roads, after he got into that accident while speeding.”

“Boys,” Rabbi Bromberg said. “Do you know why Hashem said that there needed to be signs all over Eretz Yisroel that said ‘Miklat?’”

“So someone who killed by accident would know how to get to the Ir Miklat!” several boys said.

“Yes, that is one reason,” said Rabbi Bromberg. “Hashem wants to make it easy for people who did an aveira to get help. But Rav Miller said there is another reason. He explained that it’s also an example of how Hashem helps people avoid aveiros before they actually do them.”

“But Rebbe,” said Shmuli. “Why would someone who didn’t kill anyone need a sign pointing them to an Ir Miklat?”

“Because,” Rabbi Bromberg explained. “When a person sees signs everywhere that say ‘miklat, miklat, miklat’, he should think about what that means and how careful he needs to be to avoid doing something that could chas veshalom put somebody in danger.

“However, our dear mayor, lehavdil, is putting signs everywhere telling people to drive safely. Yet, look at how he is still dangerously speeding around town. He’s not learning a lesson from his signs.”

The boys thought about this as they looked at the streaks of burnt rubber that Mayor McGillicuddy’s car left on the road as it had sped by, while Rabbi Bromberg continued.

“Hashem is constantly giving us signs. Any time you hear about someone doing something wrong or getting a punishment, we are supposed to think about that. It’s supposed to remind us that we need to be careful with whatever we do and make sure we are always doing Hashem’s will.

“Even if Mayor McGillicuddy isn’t learning the lessons from his signs, we can still look at them - and everything else that happens in Hashem’s world - and learn from them to be better Yidden. Now let’s take a look at this apple tree and see what we can learn from it about Hakadosh Baruch Hu’s wonderful world.

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

**Hashem is always holding out signs for us and showing us the right path.
It is up to us to learn the right lessons.**



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