



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

פְּרֻשֵׁת וַיֵּשֶׁב

Being Considerate

Sponsored in honor of:

Shloime Tzvi Silberstein

Keep reading each week

We are proud of you!

With love,
Your parents

Being Considerate

Khelajumose, the prison manager of the largest Egyptian prison, woke up early in the morning as usual to make sure that everything would be running smoothly. He liked being in charge of things.

Many years ago he had even been Pharaoh's Chief Joke-Teller. That was until the sad day when he had told Pharaoh a bad joke. (*Where do mummies go for a swim? The Dead Sea*). Khelajumose had thought it was funny but apparently Pharaoh didn't, and he threw him into prison for that terrible crime. Pharaoh was a tough boss!

Khelajumose was a prisoner, but over time, the prison warden had taken a liking to him and put him in charge of running the day to day operations in the jail. It was a big job that kept him very busy from early in the morning until late at night because everything that went on within the prison walls was his responsibility.

Khelajumose was a man on a mission. His mind was always whirling, and the few hundred keys on his belt were always shaking loudly. He didn't have time for little things like the prisoners themselves. To worry about this guy and this guy and that guy?! Who has time for that?! Khelajumose was too busy with his own life and his own responsibilities for each person's little problems.

Even when his old friends from the palace; Pharaoh's chief winemaker and chief baker were imprisoned – he couldn't make time for them. At most he would mumble a quick hello as he passed them in the prison hallways.

And finally the day came when Khelajumose passed away. He had done a very good job running the prison for more than twenty years, but now he was just like any other mummy in Egypt and he was quickly forgotten from history. Nobody missed him very much but the prison warden surely did – he needed to quickly find someone to take over all of his work. And so the prison warden picked a

handsome looking eved ivri named Yosef who seemed to be very capable.

And capable he was. Everything ran like clockwork. Whatever Khelajumose did, Yosef did just as well – even better. The dining room was always spotless, the prisoners always fed, and the prison cells always super tidy. And although he hurried through the prison with the same few hundred keys on his belt and his mind full of his responsibilities, he also did one more thing that Khelajumose never did. He paid attention to the people around him.

Not only that he didn't bump into them by accident — but he actually made sure to look all of his fellow prisoners in the face and ask them how they were doing. He really cared about everybody he saw. “As busy as I am,” thought Yosef to himself, “everybody has their own problems too. They all have feelings, and I won't ignore them.”

The Torah tells us **וַיָּבֹא אֵלֵיהֶם יוֹסֵף בְּבִקְרָא**
וַיִּרְא וְהֵנָּם זֹעֲפִים – And Yosef came to
the cupbearer and the
baker in the



morning, and he saw that they were in a bad mood, וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת קְרֵיבָיו מָדוּעַ פְּנֵיכֶם רָעִים הַיּוֹם ... פְּרַעְהָ – And he asked them, “Why do you look so upset today? Is everything OK?” (Bereishis 40:6-7).

Now, you probably think that that’s a pretty nice thing to do; maybe Yosef should get a big *shkuyach* for doing such a thing. After all, Yosef had enough troubles of his own to occupy his mind – he was sold into slavery from his home and now he was put into prison. He hadn’t seen his family in years! And yet Yosef didn’t let that stop him from caring about others – even strangers. So we understand that Yosef surely deserves credit for that.

But the Torah tells us much more than that. The Torah tells us that just because Yosef cared about the people around him, that’s why he was saved from prison. If Yosef hadn’t cared about his friends’ problems he would never have been rescued from prison. Nobody would have ever known about his ability to interpret dreams and Pharaoh would have never heard of him. He would have stayed in jail until the day he died just like *Khelajumose* did.

And because he noticed that his fellow prisoner was having a tough day, that’s how the whole story began that eventually brought him to the palace of Pharaoh.

Hashem wrote this story in His Torah so that we should take this lesson and apply it in our own lives in dealing with all the people around us. He wants us to follow in the footsteps of Yosef Hatzadik and make sure to always pay attention to our friends and neighbors. Never ignore your fellow Jew! You should always keep your eyes open to see who needs some cheering up. If you see someone looking a little bit sad, don’t ignore it because you’re too busy with your own problems. Be like Yosef and ask, “How are you? Is everything OK?” Even a nice big smile can change a person’s day. Pay attention to the people around you just like Yosef Hatzadik did so many years ago, you will help others, and maybe even help yourself too.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos

© Copyright 2019, Toras Avigdor

For sponsorship opportunities please call: 347.755.8860