



# Toras Avigdor

## Junior

Adapted from the teachings  
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

Illustrations by: Yocheved Nadell

פֶּרֶשֶׁת וָאֵרָא  
פֶּרֶשֶׁת וָאֵרָא

## Living Pictures

Sponsored anonymously

As a *zechus* for a *shidduch*



## Living Pictures

Hi! My name is Yisroel Meir and I'm named after a big tzaddik, the *heiligh* Chofetz Chaim. His name was also Yisroel Meir — he's called the Chofetz Chaim only because that's the name of the sefer he wrote about lashon hora.

I'm in the sixth grade in the Stolin Yeshiva in Boro Park and my English teacher, Mr. Schwartz, is trying to teach us how to write English better so he gave us a "Your Name Means Something!" writing project.

Basically it's a 1,000 word report and we have to write as much as we can about the person we're named after. I'm lucky to be named after a famous tzaddik, who has books written all about his life. Some kids are having a very hard time writing even a hundred words about the person they're named after!

So far, I found a lot of good stuff in books about the Chofetz Chaim. The Chofetz Chaim completely changed how people think about lashon hara. His sefer Mishnah Berurah became the sefer that even rabbonim use to look up halachos. Plus he wrote a lot of seforim that most kids don't know about, such as an interesting sefer for soldiers who were forced to be in the Russian army.

But I want my report to be the best, so I knew I'd have to find something different — a story that's never been printed before. So yesterday by Ma'ariv I asked Rav Rokeach, the rav of our shul, if he has any good Chofetz Chaim stories. And you'll never believe it! He said that there's an old man who davens in our shul who lived in Radin — that's where the Chofetz Chaim lived — and he saw the Chofetz Chaim with his own eyes. Can you imagine?!

So Rav Rokeach introduced me to Mr. Katz. He's very old — maybe like a hundred years old already — but he's a fun man to speak to. He told me a lot of good stuff for my report (when Mr.

Schwartz gives it back, with an A+ written on it, you can come to my house and borrow it if you want to read it), but he told me one story that he said very few people know. His uncle who learned in the Chofetz Chaim's yeshiva in Radin and stayed at his house told it to him:

"I was one of the bochurim who helped the Chofetz Chaim in his house. He was very old and we had the zechus of walking him to yeshiva in the morning. So one day we were waiting by the door, but he wasn't coming out and we were nervous. So I had the guts — maybe I shouldn't have done it, but I bent over and looked through the little keyhole on the door to see if the Chofetz Chaim was okay. And you'll never guess what I saw!

"The Chofetz Chaim was sitting by a table, with a small chumash in his hands. And he was reading the story of the Makkos. It wasn't Pesach time or during those parshiyos; he was just reading the story. And he was saying: 'Aha! Frogs are jumping all over Pharaoh! On his throne and on his head! Gut oif ehm! Good for him! He's getting just what he deserves!' The Chofetz Chaim was reading the pesukim and imagining it



with real pictures in his mind. He was already 90 years old and he knew all about the Makkos, but a real tzaddik understands that we have to live with the Torah by making it as real as possible in our minds.

“But the Chofetz Chaim didn’t stop there. My uncle saw that when he read the pasuk about lice, he closed his eyes and said, ‘What a beautiful sight! Lice crawling all over his body! Good for him! He forced the Jews to work all day long without bathing and now Hashem is punishing him with lice — he’s itching and scratching all day long! Even the best Egyptian exterminators couldn’t do a thing to help that rasha Pharaoh.

“‘But then I stopped looking,’ my uncle said, ‘because I felt that I was looking at something too holy, something I didn’t deserve to see. But the lesson I learned that day is still with me.’”

That’s how Mr. Katz ended off the story, then he said: “Yingaleh! We need to spend time thinking about the stories in the Torah and make them feel as real as we can. If a gadol like the Chofetz Chaim used his time for that, we too should spare some time to try and imagine the stories of the Torah in our mind. If the Torah is alive in our mind then we know our neshama is alive and we’re connected to Hakadosh Baruch Hu!”

**Have a Wonderful Shabbos !**

© Copyright 2019, Toras Avigdor

For sponsorship opportunities please call: 347.755.8860