



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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קרח

Lessons From Angry Bears

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לע"נ בתשבע מניא מלכה בת רחל בריינא



Lessons From Angry Bears

Excitement filled the air at Beis Yaakov Adas Menucha; Ruty, Basya and the rest of the girls were gathered around the windows in the second-floor library trying to get a good view of what was happening outside.

A few minutes earlier, Rebbetzin Handlerwitz had announced on the intercom that animals had escaped from the nearby zoo and the entire area was under lockdown until the dangerous animals could be captured. It was safer to stay on the second floor, so now they were all crowded in the library.

The sound of helicopters hovering overhead filled the room, and the girls watched and chattered excitedly as zoo workers took positions on the rooftops of nearby buildings with special dart guns. Suddenly shouts of fear and excitement filled the large room. A mother bear and her cubs were coming down the street right in front of the school!

Basya saw the zookeepers on the street first trapping the little cubs in special cages and then surrounding the mother bear, who seemed to be getting very mad that her cubs were being taken away from her. As the zookeepers got a little closer, the angry mother bear picked up a metal garbage can and threw it, shattering the windows of a police car.

“Yikes! How do those zookeepers do it?!” Ruty said as she squeezed closer to Basya to get a better view. “I have to hide in the basement when my father sees a bug in the attic — and they’re dealing with bears!”

“Stop pushing, Ruty,” complained Basya. “I was here first!”

“What are you talking about — I was here before you even came upstairs!” was Ruty’s reply.

Soon the two girls were not even looking out the window anymore; they were too busy arguing.

“You’re always doing things like this!” Basya said to Ruty. “Why can’t you ever just leave me alone?”

“I do things like this?!” Ruty shouted. “What about on Rosh Chodesh when Morah Kramer gave out donuts? We all wanted to share the last one but you took it for yourself!”

“That’s because my donut fell on the floor!”

“Well, that’s your fault for being so clumsy! Why should we lose out because you’re not careful?!”

Basya and Ruty’s argument began to attract attention.

“She dropped the donut because you pushed her, Ruty!” shouted Naomi, more interested in the fight than the bears outside.

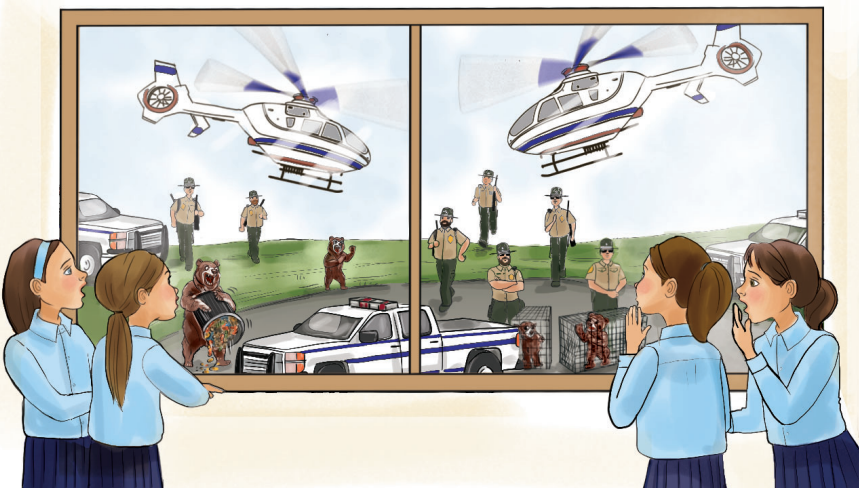
“But she deserved to get pushed!” insisted Tova, trying to stick up for her friend.

“Girls, girls!” said Morah Kramer as she came to intervene. “What is going on here?”

“It’s all Basya’s fault...” Yehudis started, but Morah Kramer wisely put her hand up for quiet.

“I’m shocked,” Morah Kramer said, “that all of you are caught up in a machlokes. Do you realize what a terrible thing that is?”

“This week is Parshas Korach, which teaches the importance of avoiding machlokes. This morning on the way to school I was listening to a shiur from Rav Avigdor Miller. Listen to what he said: The passuk tells us that most of the people who joined Korach to fight against Moshe were from Shevet Reuven. And he asked why davka that shevet? Why not Shimon or Zevulun or Binyamin?”



“And the answer is because the shevet Reuven lived right near Korach. And because they lived next to him, they were always hearing his foolish complaints about Moshe Rabbeinu, and little by little it had an effect on them until they joined the fight against Moshe Rabbeinu.

“Moshe Rabbeinu!!! The one who led the Am Yisroel out of Mitzrayim! The one who spoke to Hashem and brought us the Torah! It’s so foolish to fight with a tzaddik! But because they paid attention to Korach, they did one of the worst things a Yid can do — to get involved in machlokes.

“Rav Miller brought the passuk from Mishlei “פְּגוּשׁ רֵב שְׂכוּל... וְאֶל בְּסִיל” — It’s better to meet a mother bear who just lost her cubs than to meet a fool who will teach you foolish things.”

Morah Kramer pointed out the window. “You girls see for yourselves how dangerous a mother bear can be when she loses her cubs. But Shlomo Hamelech told us that it’s better to deal with that angry bear than to get involved in foolishness. And to be around people who are fighting, and to get involved for no reason, is the most foolish thing of all!”

The girls looked at the floor uncomfortably as Morah Kramer continued.

“Especially when there’s nothing really to fight about anyhow. Everyone can see out the windows here. And the donut from Rosh Chodesh is long gone. Don’t you think it’s silly for sweet girls like yourselves to get upset at each other over such things?”

Basya and Ruty looked at each other with sheepish smiles. “I’m sorry,” Ruty said, holding out her hand. “I shouldn’t have pushed you.”

Basya accepted Ruty’s handshake. “And I’m sorry, too. This was no reason to fight.”

Morah Kramer beamed. “I’m so proud of you girls for making shalom,” she said warmly.

A few minutes later the zookeepers managed to put the mother bear to sleep with a tranquilizer dart. And as the bear was being loaded into a truck to be brought back to the zoo, the entire class walked back to their classroom, happy that the mother bear had escaped from the zoo to teach them a lesson.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos !