



### Assorted statements from previous years

☞ More trustworthy than the bank ☞

R' Asher told the chaverim one day: **Today I had a conversation with the Creator, I told him that I needed two million dollars for construction expenses.**

They asked him, "Well, and what did HaShem answer you?"

He said, "**The Almighty told me, you're right, you really deserve two million dollars, because you do good things for people with it.**"

But, HaShem said, you don't need all the money right now, so where are you going to put the money in the meantime? In the bank, right?!

And so, whenever you need money, you will write a check and spend the money. Not so?!

**Well, HaShem told me, am I less loyal to you than the bank??!**

Let's do it like this, the money will stay with me, and whenever you need it, you will get it right away!!

And indeed - R' Asher told them - I accepted the offer... Do you know why? **Because that's the only way I'll remember him, but if the money goes into the bank, then I won't remember him, not only when finish the two million, but until I have a minus of two million I won't remember him!!**

That's why I preferred to keep the money with him...

\*

☞ It's all self interest ☞

The person is surrounded by friends endlessly! He comes to the Beis HaMidrash in the morning, and everyone smiles at him with a greeting of good morning. Everyone talks to him, and everyone is very interested in the 'almost accident' he saw yesterday... The friends around us (and we ourselves as such) are champions in giving a good and happy feeling, giving sympathy to each other, the feelings are so good that we lose the fine line between sympathy and empathy, we are convinced and sure that everyone is really

connected to us and wants only our best interests...

But when it comes to test, everything shatters, everything turns out to be one big lie. They all turn out to be self interests, it's all self interests! **And you, in shock, can't understand how all your friends have gone, where's Reuven's well-known 'good morning', what about Yissochor's wide smiles??**

And you still don't realize that Reuven never said good morning to you, he said it to your money / car he wanted to borrow from you for two days / for the *chein* and the good name you have... When Yissochor saw you, he saw in front of his face good connections to the seminary for his daughter.

And when the self interests run out, and when you no longer have connections, when it's no longer so honorable to be your friend and your good name is erased - they find themselves another car owner who has connections... And you're left aside...

**Is this chaverus (friendship)?**

R' Asher talked about this a lot, he would say "**Alla zennen bloferes!!!**" -Everyone is a faker!!!" R' Asher would say that he is looking for a true friend and still cannot find one, because what is a true friend? A true friend is like Dovid and Yehonasan, Dovid would come to Yehonasan and speak out his heart, he would tell him about the *nisyonos* trials he had failed, and Yehonasan would tell him, "You are telling me exactly what I am going through!!! I'm in exactly the same fix as you! And so they would try to find a way for themselves to become stronger together.

**Where as you, when a friend comes to you and tells you about a serious nisayon that he failed, you just look at him with angry eyes and tell him with clenched lips – get away from me right away...**

Who is a true friend? Like רעהו העדולמי Re'ehu HaAdulami, Yehuda's friend, in a story that is not taught in Cheider... Yehuda had a true friend, to whom he would tell all the difficulties and falls, without being ashamed and without trying to embellish himself in his eyes. This is a true friend.

The Rebbe, R' Bonim, said, five thousand people were with me on the festival of Shevuos, why did they come to me? Almost all of them came for the blintzes and the kreplach of Shevuos, and only five people came to be with me...

\*

Empty pages

R' Asher would say that when we reach up there with all the gemaras and seforim that we have studied, the angels will open the seforim discover empty pages, without a single line of Torah... And why? Because we learned nothing but for ourselves and for the self-pleasure we had from studying the Torah...

\*

A mitzvah to be in ga'avah

R' Raphael of Barshid said: **How good it is that there is no mitzvah to be Be'ga'avah.**

Because imagine to yourself that there was such a mitzvah, with what exactly would I be proud of--- ???

\*

Double suffering???

R' Asher says, the person who walks around all day in pain from what he is going through, It turns out, that he is suffering twice, once from the actual pain and second of all from the distancing of the people around him. **Because you can't be in the vicinity of a person who walks around irritated and in pain, full of ta'anos about everybody and anybody, unless you stick perfume bottles in the nostrils of your nose...**

But the happy person, on the other hand, not only manages to overcome the difficulty, **but he also finds new opportunities, and everyone enjoys being with him...**

The choice is in our hands!!!

\*

Press the green key

When a man sends his little son to the grocery store, he puts a cell phone in his hand, so that if he needs another product that is not listed on the shopping list, he can call his son and ask him to buy it for him.

**Hashem sent us into the world, but He also sent us a 'cell phone' – the shortcomings and pains and the mental turmoil, so that He could call us when he needs us...**

Do you hear??

When our shortcomings come to life, when it hurts, when it burns, **know that HaShem is calling you! He needs you and is urgently looking for you!!!**

Don't forget to pick up the phone...

\*



Gedanken from the Spinka Rebbe Shlita

Written in Hebrew by R' Menachem Rubinfeld

and translated by Yissochor Raffles

Written entirely according to the writers understanding