



נדפס ע"י ולזכות
הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל
וזוגתו מרת ח' מושקא
בניהם ובנותיהם
חנה, לוי, פערל,
שלום דובער, שיינא שיחי
לברטוב



A Promise Almost Broken

The Russian revolution left cities across the Soviet Union ravaged and in shambles.

Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Rostov was not spared this fate. The *bochurim* in yeshiva, although diligently applying themselves to their studies, did not have food to eat and also lacked other basic necessities and commodities.

Baruch¹, a friendly and talkative Chassidisher young man, had befriended many of the *bochurim*. He became involved with them and decided he wanted to do what he could to alleviate their situation.

Contemplating the best avenue to take, he concluded that it would be wisest if he solicited the help of Meir¹. Meir, a local in town who was very well connected in significant

places, agreed to help under one condition.

"I will help and use out my contacts if you promise me that I will be blessed with a child."

Baruch realized and appreciated the effort Meir would be expending on behalf of the yeshiva and so he boldly agreed to the deal. "In response to your dedication and selflessness, I am promising that you will be blessed with a child — a son!"

These words were an immediate source of joy and hope for Meir who had not been blessed with children for many, many years. Baruch constantly pushed him to do more and to do everything in his power to assist. Sure enough Meir kept his part of the deal and the improvement for the *bochurim* was visible.

As the months and years passed along and the promise was still not fulfilled, Meir turned to Baruch questioningly. "Why have you deceived me? I am still childless!"

Not quite sure how to respond to Meir's valid accusations, Baruch turned to the Frierdiker Rebbe and shared the whole story with him. The Rebbe's response was clear, "Why did you promise something you can't fulfill!?"

"But Rebbe," cried Baruch, "I did it for the benefit of the yeshiva..."

The Rebbe, however, repeated his original response. "You can't guarantee something you are unable to carry out."

Meir simply did not accept no for an answer and continued to press Baruch to keep his part of the deal. With no other choice, he

went back to the Frierdiker Rebbe to once again plead his case on Meir's behalf.

"Rebbe," he beseeched, "Meir refuses to let up on this matter and raises it up to me very frequently."

Finally, Baruch heard the words he had been praying for. The Frierdiker Rebbe replied, "He will be blessed with a son!"

Sure enough, a short while later, Meir and his wife welcomed their healthy baby son into the world. He lived a long, healthy and fulfilling life; a walking miracle of the Rebbe and the reward for absolute devotion his father had to the *bochurim*. **T**

(*Likkutei Sippurim Perlow, Admur HaRayatz, 34*)

1. The names do not appear in the original. They were added here for the sake of clarity.