



The Right Man For The Job

The individual who owned the land upon which the famed city of Lubavitch was built also owned other vast estates nearby.

On one of these properties he had a successful dairy farm which was rented to a Yid named Shimon¹, who became very wealthy running this operation.

The landlord called Shimon in one day and declared, "You have stolen all my wealth and I am therefore commanding you to leave at once and find a new place to live. Within the month I want not a trace of you to be found here!"

At first Shimon thought it was just a joke but as time moved on he realized it was

anything but. He pleaded, begged and cajoled but to no avail. The landlord angrily told him that he had seven days left, after that "I will chase you out and keep all your possessions for myself."

Shimon ran directly to the landlord's accountant, who was also a Jewish employee, and asked him to intercede with his boss on his behalf. "I am sorry," he said to a distraught Shimon, "I can't get involved lest he turn his anger on me."

Feeling lost and hopeless he made his way to Lubavitch to ask the Tzemach Tzedek to write a letter to the accountant with the request that he do what he can to help a fellow Yid in trouble.

The Tzemach Tzedek handed a letter to his attendant, Reb Chaim Ber, who in turn gave it to a delighted Shimon.

His joy soon turned to worry when he realized the letter had not been addressed to the accountant but rather to Pinchas², a distinguished and wealthy individual from Chernigov.

Shimon raced back to Reb Chaim Ber and asked him to please go back to the Rebbe and ask him to correct the mistake.

"A Rebbe makes no mistake!" he declared, and no matter what Shimon said, Reb Chaim Ber did not budge.

Filled with concern, he made his way home and poured his heart out to his

wife. She, however, agreed with the Rebbe's attendant and encouraged her husband to take the letter to Chernigov.

With no choice he made the trip and hesitantly knocked on the door.

"Here is a letter from Lubavitch," he stammered.

"From Lubavitch?" exclaimed Pinchas, completely taken aback.

"But I am a *misnaged!*"

As he read the letter, in which the Tzemach Tzedek vouched for Shimon's integrity and good character, concluding with a request to step in and help, Pinchas said:

"I respect your Rebbe because I have heard that he is a great *lamdan*. But I don't understand why he

לזכות
הרה"ת ר' שניאור זלמן שיחי'
ליפסקער
בקשר עם יום הולדתו
ח"י אדר שני
נדפס ע"י משפחתו שיחיו



asked me to help you... I don't know your landlord and have never done business with him. It seems that you have come to me for nothing."

When Shimon heard this, his body began to shake and he was at the brink of fainting. Bitter cries emanated from deep within him as all hope seemed to slip away.

Pinchas's wife witnessed all this and turned to her husband, "I will not allow you to abandon this man in his time of trouble. Perhaps his salvation will indeed come through you." Turning to Shimon she said, "Stop crying. My husband will travel with you and try to talk to the landlord. Hashem should have mercy on you..."

Shimon and Pinchas made the journey to the landlord's mansion. Shimon was terrified of what would transpire so he cowered behind some objects to make sure he would not be seen. Pinchas, on the other hand, strode over to the gate and peered inside. What he saw was a great hustle and bustle, with servants scurrying to and fro. Guests and visitors were passing through the gate when the landlord called out loudly

in Polish to Pinchas that he should enter.

Pinchas was unaware that he was being invited in so he remained in his place. After a few more futile attempts, the landlord ran over to Pinchas and said, "I am calling you. Why are you just standing there? Come inside the ballroom." And with that he led him by the hand all the way in.

Still in complete shock as to what was going on, Pinchas listened as the man summoned his wife and family. "Come see who has come to visit us," he announced. "Wow," he continued, "you came to wish me well on my birthday. That is so amazing!"

Pinchas stood with a blank stare on his face, completely confused about what was going on.

"I see you don't remember me. Let me tell you a story and hopefully refresh your memory.

"It was a freezing cold, snowy night seven years ago. I was completely lost and didn't know where to turn for help. As I assessed my dire situation I noticed a light on in the distance and knocked on your door. You and your wife took great care of me and even insisted that I stay for the week until

the terrible winter storm had passed. When I was finally ready to take leave, you refused to accept any money for your hospitality."

After hearing the story, all the memories flooded back to Pinchas and they chatted like long lost friends.

"Now it's my turn to tell you why I came here," said Pinchas.

Pinchas shared with the landlord the pain and stress his planned eviction was causing for Shimon, and begged him to change his mind. The landlord asked Pinchas, "Can you assure me that Shimon is truly an honest man?" Pinchas answered in the affirmative. After hearing that, the landlord called for Shimon and claimed that in fact it had all been a "joke," and he willingly agreed to let him stay and keep his dairy business. Shimon blessed the landlord and went on his way with a happy and light heart.

Pinchas (the *misnaged*), after seeing the wondrous success of his mission, decided he must immediately travel to Lubavitch and relay the entire incident to the Rebbe.

When he entered the Rebbe's room, the Tzemach Tzedek thanked him for

agreeing to follow the request in the letter. Pinchas replied, "All my life I have been a *misnaged*. From a young age I didn't believe in miracle stories that are told about *tzaddikim*; but now I have witnessed an open miracle from the Rebbe."

"Heaven forbid!" exclaimed the Tzemach Tzedek. "By us there are no miracles. Hashem has blessed me with a good memory. Whatever I hear or see, I know is not in vain so I merely put two and two together. When Shimon came here with his problem I recalled that seven years ago I remember hearing the story of you and the landlord and how you saved them from certain death. I concluded that you would be the best person to step in and help him out, so I sent the letter to you."

Pinchas was awed by what he had heard, especially the humility of the Tzemach Tzedek and how he described this open miracle as a natural event. **T**

*Adapted from
Otzar Sippurei Chabad
vol. 17, p. 20*

1. Name does not appear in the original, it was added here for clarity.

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