



A Better Arrangement

“Strange, very strange,” thought Reb Naftali to himself as he stood on the station’s platform, preparing to board a train. “That appears to be the [Friediker] Rebbe staring out the window from the public area of the train.”

Naftali, on his way to Moscow, entered the train car and made himself comfortable in his cabin.

Along the way, the train made another stop during which the continuing passengers were allowed

to disembark for a few minutes to stretch their legs and buy something at the concession stands. The trip was long and Naftali took full advantage of this opportunity.

As he glanced at the train, he was once again surprised to see the Rebbe still standing and staring out the window. He then decided to find out what was going on.

“Rebbe, why are you standing by the window the whole time? Do you not

have a room in the shared cabin area?”

“I do have a joint room,” replied the Rebbe, “but my ticket landed me in a room with a woman actress and I can’t be in there because of *yichud*. Therefore, I am standing out here in the corridor.”

Naftali was determined to help and devised a creative solution.

He shared his cabin with a decorated military personality so he approached him and said,

“In the other cabin there is an actress who is sharing the room with a religious man. The two have nothing in common. Would you care to switch rooms with him? You will have a lot to talk about and this Jew will be happy as well.”

Without hesitation, the soldier accepted Naftali’s proposal and the Rebbe comfortably continued his journey. **T**

(*Reshimos Dvorim* p. 191)