



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

Drastic Transformation

AS TOLD BY RABBI SHOLOM BER TENENBAUM (GURNEE, IL)

It was towards the end of the year of 5774. As we neared the start of a new year, my wife was reaching out to families with which we once had contact, but have since lost touch with over time, to wish them a good new year.

When reaching out to one particular family, who had sent their kids to our Hebrew school, a grandmother picked up the phone; Mrs. Tammy Klein*. She was grateful to be receiving a call from Chabad, as her husband, Richard, had recently been suffering from a medical issue, and she poured out her heart to my wife.

I made a note on my list to get in touch with this family again at a later date, but I ultimately only reached them

after the busy Tishrei season. We set a time to meet, and I sensed that they were looking forward to our meeting.

When we met, Mr. and Mrs. Klein told me what was on their minds. The doctors recently discovered that Richard had a serious heart condition, and it seemed that he would need to undergo a risky heart transplant. The couple was deeply troubled, both by the shocking news, and by the uncertainty of how to proceed. Should they go ahead with the transplant or not?

They were scheduled an appointment with a cardiologist for a few weeks later, who would assess the situation and help determine how soon he needed the transplant.



As the need for transplants is great, and the amount of hearts available is far-less, the list of patients waiting for a transplant is ordered in level of priority, with the most critical cases on the top, and those with longer estimated time to live lower down.

Now, a heart transplant is no simple thing. The procedure involves many risks with tremendous dangers. Mr. and Mrs. Klein were considering if it was even worthwhile to treat the heart condition or just leaving it as is and hoping for the best.

Seeing their troublesome situation, I explained to them that they should write a letter to the Rebbe and send it to be placed at the Ohel. I advised them to write about everything that was going on, and that they should ask for a *brocha* that all cardiac issues be resolved. Additionally, I suggested that they take on a mitzvah, and recommended that they check the mezuzah of their home, as the Rebbe often instructed people in similar situations.

They had never heard of such a concept before, but after I explained it to them, they agreed, and sat down to write a letter in which they described their situation and asked the Rebbe for a *brocha*. I immediately faxed it to the Ohel. We also gave the mezuzah to a sofer who found that

unfortunately it wasn't kosher; a disappointing piece of news for them. I offered to order a new mezuzah for them and they were very grateful.

It was, *baruch Hashem*, a very busy season; I had two weddings to attend out of town, and I only got back to them with the new mezuzah a few weeks later, on Thursday of the Kinus Hashluchim. Tammy told me that since we had sent their letter to the Ohel, she spent time reading about the Rebbe, learning more about the Rebbe, and watching videos of the Rebbe online. She was very excited to relate to me that although they had never met the Rebbe, she felt a real connection.

In the meantime, the Klein family was understandably nervous as to how the situation would develop. I tried easing their anxiety, saying that they did their part—writing into the Rebbe asking for a *brocha* and fixing their mezuzah—and, G-d willing, it will turn out okay.

I headed straight from this meeting to the airport to fly to New York for the Kinus Hashluchim.

The next day, Friday, he was scheduled to meet the cardiologist to determine how serious his case was and at what level he would be placed on the list to receive a new heart. When I opened my phone on Motzei Shabbos, I saw that I had received a long text message from Mr. Richard:

“Good news! At this point in time I am not being placed on the transplant list. Physically I am in good health. My stress test results are better than my symptomatic condition indicates. They are going to run another test in order to try and determine where the inconsistency lies. Everything will be reevaluated after the test. Even if I were to be placed on a list I would be a low priority unless my condition were to worsen. The wait would be at least a year plus.

The Rebbe? Our new mezuzah? I am grateful beyond words.”

When he went for additional testing later that week, it was further confirmed that the major issue simply disappeared! The doctors had no explanation and could not reconcile their initial concern with what they were now seeing. They saw no need for him to undergo a heart transplant. The situation had transformed for the better, as the difference of night and day.

The Kleins are deeply thankful to the Rebbe, as they witnessed in their own lives how the Rebbe's *brocha* changed the situation from one extreme to the other. **T**

* Before publishing this story, all the details were once again confirmed for accuracy by the Kleins.

YOUR STORY

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