



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

A Timely Pledge

AS TOLD BY RABBI ELIEZER SNEIDERMAN (GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA)

I merited to serve as the Rebbe's shliach to the University of Delaware for 23 years. I have always attempted to keep a connection with the students I come in contact with, even after they graduate and move on in their lives. So was true with Jason¹. Even as he graduated, started a family and began his career working as an agent for a large Manhattan firm, we kept in touch and spoke often.

One day Jason called with some upsetting news. He explained to me that employees in the business in which he works are paid a commission from each new client they acquire for the company. Due to the (then) recent market collapse of 2008, business was slow but worse was the fact that he personally had not managed to pick up a single

client the entire year. He was sure his days at the firm were numbered.

Of course I had no business advice for him but I immediately offered to drive up to New York the following day and take him to the Rebbe's Ohel, a proposal he couldn't refuse.

The very next day I drove the two hours to Manhattan, fetched Jason from his office and together we made our way to the Ohel.

After visiting the *mikveh* we sat down to write our *pa'nim*. Jason asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* and included a pledge to support our Chabad House when his business turns around.

That very week Jason received his first client and from then on business never stopped. By the end of the year he received the company award for acquiring the most clients throughout the entire business.

He made it a point to share the secret to his success with his fellow employees and the next time I visited him at the firm, I actually noticed that many of his non-jewish co-workers had pictures of the Rebbe in their offices.

Still, I never heard a word about the pledge of support he had made at the Ohel and obviously I was loath to remind him.

Three years later I was in a low place financially and in desperate need of immediate funds to pay some pressing expenses. Sitting in my office one day I decided to write a letter to the Rebbe online to be printed and brought into the Ohel. After tearfully reciting Tehillim for some time I wrote my *pa"n* requesting a *bracha* that would allow me to continue my shlichus.

Two minutes after sending my *pa"n* I received a surprise phone call from Jason requesting that I come visit him in his office as soon as I could make it. Not sure what to expect, I rode the bus to Manhattan the following morning and took a taxi from the station directly to his office.

After exchanging greetings, Jason ushered me in and without further ado, handed me a package containing a very substantial sum of money. I was speechless. Noticing the astonishment on my face Jason exclaimed: "I told the Rebbe I would take care of you!" **T**

1. Real name withheld upon request

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