



# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

Dedicated By  
Chabad Lubavitch of Westport



## Open Eyes

AS TOLD BY ELIEZER TUNK (MORRISTOWN, NJ)

Our daughter Zelda Rochel was born this past year on 22 Adar II. According to the standard physical exam they ran within the first 24 hours, she was completely healthy.

Six days later we paid our first visit to a pediatrician in Crown Heights and to our horror, a quick examination of her eyes raised suspicion that our daughter may have been born with a cataract.<sup>1</sup> Although cataracts are very common in aging adults—cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed operations in the United States—cataracts in newborns and children are relatively rare, affecting only 3 out of 10,000 children.

Our pediatrician referred us to a Manhattan-based medical practice called Pediatric Ophthalmic Consultants where Dr. Marc Lustig ran the full gamut of tests on our daughter. Fundus photography<sup>2</sup> clearly determined that indeed Zelda Rochel had been born with a double cataract in her left eye.<sup>3</sup>

Surgery was required to remove the clouded natural eye lens and replace it with an artificial one. Usually surgery is performed within six weeks of birth but because our case wasn't so severe, he felt we could wait six months before going ahead with the procedure. In the meantime the situation would be monitored with monthly examinations.

We were due to spend Pesach in England but before we left we paid a visit to the Ohel where we asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* that her condition should remain stable and the surgery be pushed off as much as allowed.

Upon returning from England, we once again visited Pediatric Ophthalmic Consultants where Zelda Rochel underwent her monthly examination. A different doctor performed the check-up and although no pictures were taken, she confirmed that surgery was still required and urged that it take place imminently.

We grew increasingly anxious at the thought of our precious little baby going under the surgical blade. We once



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again visited the Ohel where we implored the Rebbe for our child to be healthy. We also looked for a second medical opinion as per one of the Rebbe's well known instructions regarding medical diagnoses and treatments.

A few weeks later we were by our pediatrician who, upon completing the routine exam, told us that it seems to him the cataract had considerably faded, but as he doesn't specialize in the field, he couldn't be certain.

We became hopeful and at our next appointment with Dr. Lustig ten days later, on Yud-Gimmel Sivan, more pictures were taken of the eye.

The results were truly astonishing. Comparing the new pictures with those taken a couple months prior, it was



abundantly clear that the cataract had disappeared! We were overjoyed at the news that our daughter was healthy and wouldn't require surgery of any kind.

Most amazed was Dr. Lustig, who had never encountered such a phenomenon throughout his career as a specialist in this field, and he was at a total loss as to what had caused this miraculous recovery.

Of course we have no doubt that it is only due to the Rebbe's *brachos* that this wondrous miracle was wrought. **T**

1. A cataract is a clouding of the eye's natural lens.
2. Fundus photography involves capturing a photograph of the back of the eye. Specialized fundus cameras that consist of an intricate microscope attached to a flash-enabled camera are used in fundus photography.
3. He explained that while in the womb, the embryo's internal organs evolve from blood cells which then dissolve once the organ is formed. Apparently two of the blood cells developing her left eye had not disappeared, creating the blockage in the eye's lens.

## YOUR STORY

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