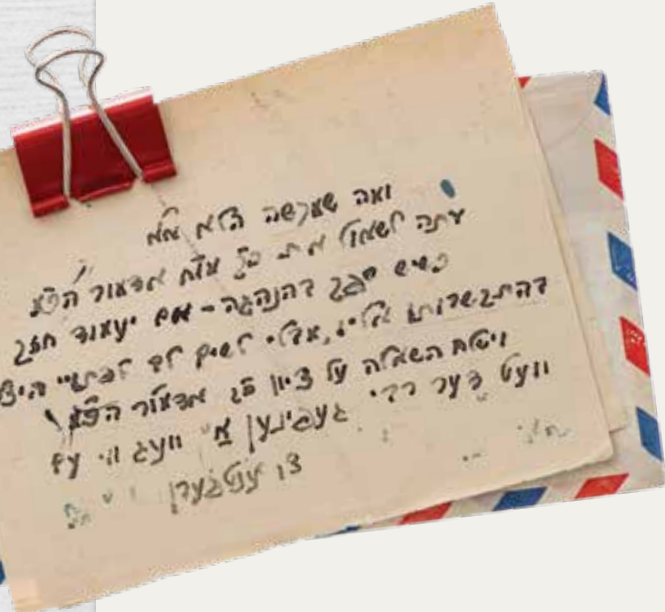




Story

לזכות
החייל בצבאות ה' השליח
מנחם מענדל שיחי'
לרגל יום הולדתו י"ד מנחם אב

נדפס ע"י הוריו
הרה"ת ר' דוד זוגתו מרת פערל
גאלדא ומשפחתם שיחיו
טייכטל



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG (TX)

Utilize Your Summer



AS TOLD BY
RABBI OSHER DEREN
(Cape Town, South Africa)

A few months before the summer of 5783, my daughter, Musya, accepted a request to serve as head counselor at CGI Detroit for the first month. She wasn't sure what she should be doing for the second month, since the summer was the only gap between her first and second years of seminary. As her parents, we felt she should come home for a few weeks of break to catch her breath between the two intense years of seminary, the many months of intensive camp preparations, and the month of being head counselor in camp.

At one point, Musya told us that she had been asked to go to Camp Pardes Chana in Montreal, where she would be taking a job with much less responsibility, but well positioned to help encourage and inspire kids with an informal job as replacement counselor, helper etc. She was inclined

to accept the offer, and we accepted this as her decision.

About three weeks before the summer, Musya called us in a quandary. The pressure of the work for the first month of the summer was building, and she felt that she had made a mistake accepting the job at Pardes Chana for the second month. She wondered if it was right to ask them if it would be okay if she canceled, although she had already confirmed with them. She reached out to them and was told it would be okay for her to leave one week before camp ended, but they definitely needed her for the first three weeks; it still felt like too little time.

Musya was also unsure how to structure her second year of seminary between the afternoon options of learning, working, etc., and she felt that having time at home would help her gain clarity on that.

Many more phone calls later, the pressure was only building, and we didn't know what to do. Backing out of a commitment didn't seem like an option, but spending the second half of the summer without a break and then going straight into seminary also seemed untenable.

One morning, I told her what I should have suggested much earlier: to write to the Rebbe and ask for clarity and guidance.

We had the conversation at around 8:00 a.m., and she said she would write in at approximately 11:00 a.m.

At 1:00 p.m., my phone pinged. It was a WhatsApp message from a 770 bochur who shares an answer from the Rebbe, often selected from lesser-known answers, together with the original manuscript from the Rebbe.

I usually give it a quick look, but this time I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

Here is some context for my shock. Although I am not fluent in all of the Rebbe's letters, answers, and *sichos*, I have learned and seen many of them, and I did not recall the Rebbe ever mentioning or speaking about Camp Pardes Chana... until that day! The Rebbe found a way to answer my daughter Musya in precise detail. In the spring of 5733, the Rebbe responded to a young woman who was undecided about her summer plans. (It is also published in *Igros Kodesh* vol. 28, p. 260. The handwritten note is published on p. 24. *Likkut Maanos 5733 #297*)

ב"ה

כיון שלא ברא הקב"ה דבר אחד לבטלה -

ולה ניתן חוש בהדרכה וחינוך - עלי' לנצל הקיץ לניצול חוש זה. ז.א. להיות בקעמפ (אמונה, או פרדס חנה, או שטרנברג וכי"ב) באופן שכל הקיץ יופעל החוש שלה, ולתועלת הרבים ופשיטא שזה יהי לתועלת שלה - בגו"ר.

ובודאי שה' יעזרה ותתגבר על כל המניעות וכו', ותבש"ט.

אזכיר עה"צ.

בנוגע לשנת תשל"ד - תחליט בחדש ההכנה אליו - אלול.

Since the Holy One, blessed be He, did not create anything in vain — and she has been given a talent for guidance and education — she should utilize the summer to make use of this ability. That is, to be in a camp (Eminah, Pardes Chana, Sternberg, or the like) in a way that for the entire summer her ability will be utilized and will benefit many.

And obviously, this will also be to her own benefit — both spiritually and materially.

And certainly, Hashem will help her and she will overcome all obstacles, etc., and she should share good news.

I will mention it at the tziyun.

Regarding the year 5734 — she should decide during the month of preparation for it — Elul.

Barely two hours after Musya wrote to the Rebbe, I received a clear answer from the Rebbe for her: She should definitely go to Camp Pardes Chana, to utilize the gifts of guidance and education she clearly has.

But there is more.

1. The Rebbe underlines the word “that all — shekol” the days of the summer, are being utilized, not just the first month.
2. She was unsure how much she would be utilized in the second month, and the Rebbe underlines that her gifts will be utilized.
3. Regarding her concern that she would be tired from the work overload, the Rebbe underlines “and certainly” Hashem will help her overcome all obstacles, etc., and she should share good news.
4. About getting ready for the next school year, we realized the date Pardes Chana said she could leave without interfering with the camp program was Rosh Chodesh Elul! As the Rebbe added at the very end, “*Regarding the year... — she should decide during the month of preparation for it — Elul.*”

That summer, Musya went to camp for both months and came home on Rosh Chodesh Elul to get ready for another successful year, all with the Rebbe's guidance because, as the Rebbe wrote to my great-grandfather Reb Sholom Posner just a few months after Yud Shevat 5710:

[In reply to] the question you raise: that now we cannot ask my revered father-in-law, the Rebbe, ה"כ מ, when there is doubt how to conduct oneself: If you will stand firm in your connection with him, without paying attention to the tricks of the yetzer [hara], and send the question to the gravesite of my revered father-in-law, the Rebbe, ה"כ מ, the Rebbe will find a way to answer you.

May we be strong in our connection to the Rebbe, without paying attention to the tricks of the Yetzer Hara, so that we merit very soon to see the Rebbe lead us to the *Geulah HaAmitis Vehashleima!* **1**

YOUR STORY

Share your story with A Chassidisher Derher by emailing stories@derher.org.