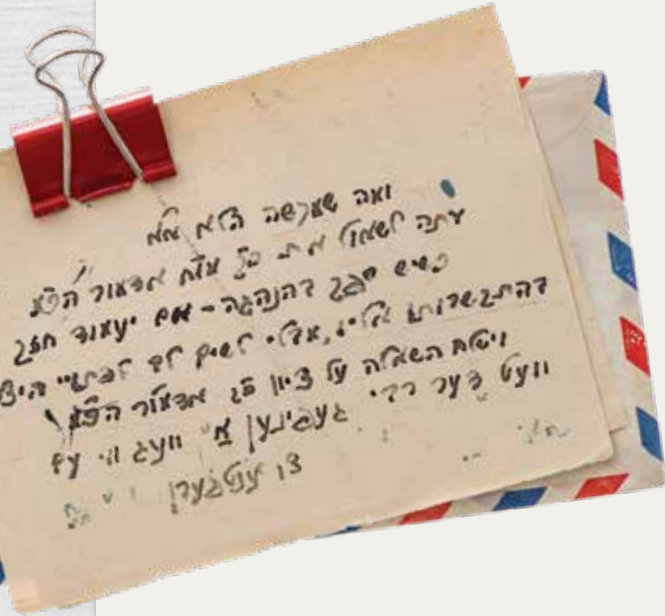




Story

לזכות
הת' השליח שניאור זלמן שיח'י
לרגל יום הולדתו
י"א אדר שני
לשנת הצלחה בכל מכל
כל, לנח"ר כ"ק אדמו"ר

נדפס ע"י הוריו
הרה"ת ר' דוד וזוגתו מרת פערל
גאלדא ומשפחתם שיח'י
טייכטל



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

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The Miracle Happened!



As told by

Rabbi Chanoch Gechtman

(Gadera, Eretz Yisroel)

In the winter of 5782, my wife was pregnant with our daughter Sara. During one of the routine doctor appointments, after running some tests, the doctor notified us that our unborn daughter had a major heart defect. The news hit us like a lightning bolt on a bright summer day. Our initial reaction was shock, confusion, and sadness. However, we quickly realized this was the will of Hashem, clearly part of our life's mission,

and we strengthened our *bitachon* that all would be well. We hoped the diagnosis would turn out to be a mistake, and that even if it wasn't, that there would be a medical solution.

Sara was born on 21 Iyar at the Beilinson Hospital, one of the best in the country for such complicated medical issues. A large team of specialists was on hand to deal with every situation that could come up during



DR. TAL GEVA TREATS PATIENTS AT BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

such a birth. Despite our best hopes, it was immediately clear that our daughter was very ill. The medical team worked diligently to give her the best care possible, but she had a major heart problem which impacted her blood circulation. The only medical solution available in Eretz Yisroel is a complicated surgery that would make her handicapped for life and dependent on many medicines every day.

Sara's prospects devastated us and we felt at a loss of how to proceed. We wrote a letter to the Rebbe describing Sara's medical situation and asked for a bracha. The Rebbe often encouraged consulting with a "*rofeh yedid*" (a doctor who is a friend), and we started searching for a specialist who would completely invest himself in our case and guide us through this difficult and painful journey like a true friend. With the help of a friend, we finally found a cardiologist who took a personal interest in Sara's condition. He devoted many hours to checking on her and answering all our questions; he even fought on her behalf when necessary.

I never gave up hope that a miracle would happen and Sara's heart would function normally. Every time we saw a doctor I always asked about this possibility

and every time I was told, with some pity, that it was not possible. I continued to ask, but after months of appointments and treatments, the prognosis remained the same. We finally consulted with the famous medical *askan* Rabbi Elimelech Firer.

Rabbi Firer confirmed we had exhausted all of our options in Eretz Yisroel so he recommended we contact Dr. Tal Geva, the cardiologist-in-chief at Boston Children's Hospital, who had developed a new treatment that could completely heal our daughter. We sent Sara's medical file to Boston and two days later Dr. Geva responded that based on the information in her file, Sara was a candidate for his treatment, and we were welcome to come to Boston and begin the process.

We were overjoyed with the news which provided us much hope for Sara's cure, but dismayed to discover the treatment would cost \$700,000, an amount far beyond our wildest dreams.

Initially, the Israeli Health Ministry refused to cover the costs of the treatment in Boston, claiming she could receive treatment in Israel. It was a difficult and protracted battle, but with the help of our "*rofeh yedid*," many friendly *askanim* who pulled many strings, and

most importantly the Rebbe's *brachos*, many miracles happened and the Health Ministry agreed to pay for the treatment.

Dr. Geva's treatment consists of two surgeries, a year apart. Sara's first surgery in Boston was a major success and we returned to Eretz Yisroel shortly thereafter. A year later, as we prepared to return to Boston for the second surgery, we requested the Health Ministry to book our flights to Boston with a stopover in New York so that we could take Sara to the Ohel before the second surgery. After some hesitation at the Health Ministry, we prevailed, and Sara was very happy to fly to New York to visit the Rebbe, instead of flying to Boston for treatments that scared her.

When we arrived at the Ohel on Sunday, 2 Cheshvan 5785, my wife and I sat down at a table to write our respective *panim*. I wrote a lengthy letter asking the Rebbe for a *bracha* that the surgery should be successful and that Sara should live a happy and healthy life. While writing, I glanced at my wife's *pan* and saw she was asking the Rebbe for a *bracha* that Sara's heart should be completely healed naturally and there should be no need for the second surgery at all.

Slightly startled by my wife's bravery to ask for such a *bracha*, I remembered a story. A chossid once asked the Rebbe in *yechidus* for a *bracha* that his upcoming heart surgery should be successful. After giving him a *bracha* the Rebbe said, "You should have asked there should be no need for surgery in the first place." The chossid immediately corrected himself but the Rebbe said it was too late.

Right away I told my wife I wanted to sign my name on her letter instead of bringing my own to the Ohel. We were jointly asking the Rebbe for a *bracha* that there should be no need for surgery at all.

On Monday, 3 Cheshvan we arrived in Boston and Dr. Geva's team started preparing Sara for surgery which was scheduled for Monday, 10 Cheshvan.

On Wednesday, 5 Cheshvan at 4:00 pm we received a phone call from the hospital to come for an urgent consultation with Dr. Geva. We were terror-stricken. Was some unforeseen problem just discovered that made Sara unfit for surgery? Would she need to undergo the other standard surgery and be handicapped all her life? With racing thoughts and pounding hearts, we rushed to the hospital.

"After all the tests it seems clear to me that your daughter's heart problem has almost completely solved and there is a strong chance her heart will heal naturally," Dr. Geva said. "It is incredible, but we had better not interfere with her progress by doing the surgery."

It had happened! Baruch Hashem, the miracle had occurred! Despite the concrete medical science that had confirmed Sara was very ill and needed such an expensive, complicated, and difficult surgery, her heart was healing on its own.

Our connection to the Rebbe through writing to the Ohel guided and strengthened us from when we first learned of Sara's condition until we discovered her heart would be fine. The Rebbe inspired and elevated us from the fear, confusion, and sadness to have strong bitachon in Hashem throughout the difficult journey, until the tremendous miracle of Sara's good health. **T**

YOUR STORY

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