



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג... ...געפינען א וועג...

“Time Was Wasted”

AS TOLD BY MRS. MONICA GUTTMAN (WOODMERE, NY)

On a Shabbos afternoon, in the beginning of the summer, the back door of our home slammed shut on our two-year-old daughter’s fingers. Sofi’s screams were terrifying and we called Hatzalah immediately.

After several minutes of panic, someone realized that a portion of her left middle finger had been severed and we frantically searched for the missing tip. *Baruch Hashem*, the dedicated members of Hatzalah arrived quickly, we located the fingertip, put it on ice and we were rushed to the hospital.

The plastic surgeon managed to reattach the tip to the finger and wrapped it in a large bandage. He warned me that there was no guarantee that it would ever heal properly and advised me to keep an eye on it, and if it turned black and necrotic it would not be a good sign.

We returned home drained and distraught by the day’s events and the doctor’s warning did not sound very encouraging. My husband and I were scheduled to depart to Europe that week for vacation, but those plans were obviously canceled.



A few days later, at the doctor's office for a second opinion, Sofi's bandage was removed to reveal that her finger was black, and the journey began...

We searched for the best doctors in the field from New York to Boston and started to make the rounds. At one appointment the doctor took one look at the finger and determined she needed a new finger. Several reconstruction surgeries and some grafting would do the job.

Dumbfounded, I asked him, "What will the finger look like after all those procedures?"

"I don't know," he replied. "I'm not G-d."

Needless to say, we promptly left.

Rabbi Shuki Berman referred us to the world renowned Dr. Joseph Upton of Boston Children's Hospital. We begged his staff for an appointment and arranged a long distance photo consultation for the next morning. Before Sofi went to sleep we took photos of her finger and emailed them to Dr. Upton's office at around 7:00 p.m.

After bedtime, my husband and I decided to go to the Ohel to daven for Sofi and to ask the Rebbe for a *bracha*. After davening at the Ohel, I passed by the Rebbetzin and went back to the tent to wash my hands. I entered the main room where a video of a *farbrengen* (12 Tammuz 5737) was playing on the screen.

Settling down, I saw on the screen how the Rebbe was having private conversations with visitors in between the *sichos*. Following along with the English subtitles I suddenly heard the Rebbe say the following:

"I heard you were at the doctor today. Such a pity, time was wasted."

This caught my attention, to say the least, and I wrote down the words to remember them.

When my husband joined me in the room, I shared these two lines with him and he also felt strangely intrigued by them.

The next morning, as we removed Sofi's bandage to clean her finger, half of the corroded black part fell off. After the initial fright, we realized that under that area her finger looked pink and healthy. We took photos of this new development and called Dr. Upton's office to advise them that the doctor should look at the new pictures before our phone appointment.

By the time the doctor called, an hour after the arranged time, I was shaking.

"First of all, I am very confused," Dr. Upton started the consultation. "Is the finger in the morning photos the same finger in the photos you sent last night? This is a huge turnaround! Last night's photos told a bleak story, and this morning it seems that she is on the road to a complete recovery with no need for surgeries!"

A week and a half later, the rest of the corroded area fell off to reveal a completely healthy finger!

We feel so privileged to have merited such an open miracle! 🕯

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