



A Hidden Miracle

In the times of the Rebbe Maharash, in a small Russian village lived a successful Jewish innkeeper. All the gentiles of the town would come to drink and party at his inn.

In the same village lived an antisemitic priest who always looked for a chance to oppress the Yidden of the village. He was especially jealous of this Jewish innkeeper and devised a scheme to eliminate the Jewish innkeeper's business.

The priest opened an inn of his own, and that Sunday when all the gentiles gathered to pray, he preached that they must stop supporting the Jewish innkeeper, and instead come to his new inn to party there.

But his words fell on deaf ears. The non-Jews enjoyed the Jewish inn, and were also embarrassed to get drunk in front of their priest.

After failing at his first attempt, the priest formed another plan. One

morning he warmly approached the Jew and told him, "This town is too small for both our inns to have an income. Let's make peace. One of us should pay the other to close his inn."

"You know good and well that I had my inn here way before you!" the Jew replied. "Besides, my inn is my only source of income, unlike you. You get money from being a priest and all your other businesses!"

"You are right," agreed the priest. "I will close my inn and let you have the full business back."

The Jew was extremely happy with this deal.

"Now in honor of this historic peace treaty let us have a toast!" said the priest. The Jew went and got a bottle of vodka from inside his inn.

A crowd had gathered and they all cheered and gave a toast for the "peace agreement" between the two bar owners.

But the evil priest came prepared,

and this was the moment. When no one was looking, the priest switched the bottle of vodka that the Jew had served, with a poisoned bottle of vodka that the priest had brought with him. He then poured a shot for one of the bystanders. Upon drinking the man immediately fell to the floor in pain and moments later he died.

Panic struck and word spread that the Jew poisoned someone to death. Police were immediately summoned and they declared the Jew at fault for killing the innocent man. His fate would be judged at a trial a few weeks later.

The evil priest went home that night a happy man, seeing that his plot worked exactly as planned. The inn would close down and the Jew would go to jail.

In complete despair, the Yid rushed to Lubavitch to receive advice and a *bracha* from the Rebbe Maharash.

לזכות
הת' השליח שניאור זלמן שיחי'
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 שיחיו
טייכטל



When the *gabbai* requested an urgent *yechidus* for the man, the Rebbe pushed it off saying that there were guests that were here before him and were still waiting to be received. The same occurred the next day, and the next.

Suddenly on the third day the Rebbe called for the man to come immediately. Upon entering *yechidus*, the Rebbe directed him to travel back home immediately in the first class cabin of the train, and the Rebbe gave him money for the additional expense. When giving him the money the Rebbe told him again, "But travel now, and specifically in first class!"

While donned in tallis and tefillin in his first class cabin, the Yid started pondering his situation. "I spent a whole week on this trip, and now I am traveling back home with no advice and no *bracha* from the Rebbe!" From the pain

and agony of his situation, the Jew started weeping. Before long, he was sobbing so loudly that a crowd of passengers gathered outside his cabin. They opened the door and asked him what was wrong? He went on to tell the whole story of his inn and the libel against him. The gentile passengers saw how earnest this Jew was and advised him to keep his story quiet and to just show up to court.

Little did he know that these passengers were the judges of his trial and they were making their way to his village for the court case which was now only days away.

Once the judges arrived in the village they came up with a plan on how to get the evil priest to admit to his misdeeds. They met up with the priest and requested that he host them. Seeing these were esteemed people he gladly agreed, unaware of their true identity.

One night they sat and feasted with the priest. Under the influence of much alcohol, the priest related the true story of how he had poisoned the vodka in order to get rid of the Jew and his inn.

Days later, the date of the trial arrived. A worried Jew and a confident priest arrived at the court. Many people had gathered for the trial. The judges entered and both the Jew and priest were shocked. Needless to say, the priest was sentenced to many years in prison and hard labor, and the Jew was free to go. Now the Yid saw the tremendous miracle of the Rebbe Maharash. **T**

(*Likkutei Sippurim*—
Perlow, p. 238)