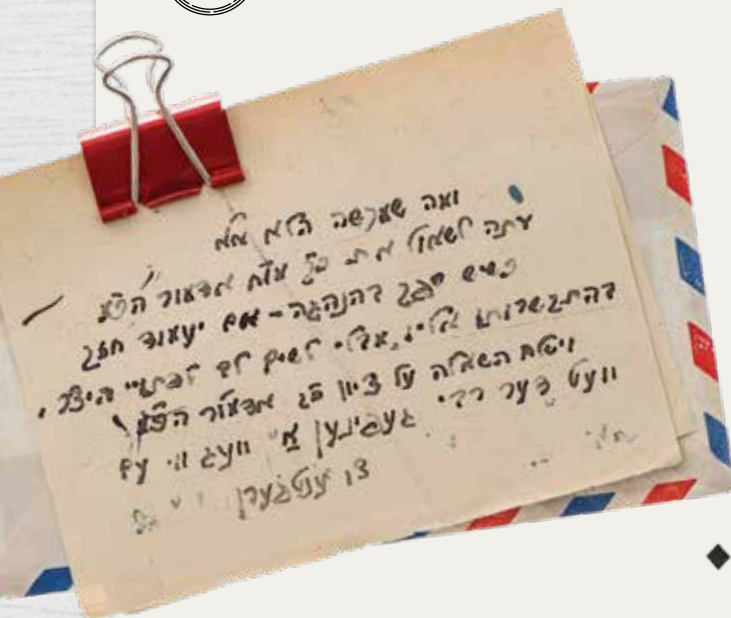




Story



לזכות
שלוחי כ"ק אדמו"ר זי"ע ומשפחותיהם שיחיו
בכל רחבי תבל
להצלחה רבה ומופלגה בעבודת השליחות
מתוך בריאות הנכונה, פרנסה בהרחבה ונחת
חסידותי מכל יו"ח
ע"י הרוצה בעילום שמו

דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG

The Long Awaited Confirmation

AS TOLD BY
MRS. ROCHEL LUSTIG
(BROOKLYN, NY)

Many years ago, a *yungerman* called my husband, Rabbi Hershel Lustig, the long-time principal of Oholei Torah, with the following story. He was at the Ohel earlier that day and noticed a non-Jewish woman dressed in formal attire reading a letter there. Curious to know what brought her to the Rebbe, he approached her after she left the Ohel and asked her about the circumstances of her visit.

She told him that she lives in Crown Heights on Lincoln Place, on the block right behind the Oholei Torah building, and is always pleased to hear the children davening every morning. "Their chanting is so pure, inspiring and beautiful. It is music to my ears," she said enthusiastically.

Shortly before this encounter at the Ohel, she

experienced a devastating family crisis and made a special trip to Eastern Parkway to ask one of the students from Oholei Torah where they pray when they have a serious problem. The boy candidly replied that they go to the Rebbe's Ohel to daven and gave her the information she needed. "That's why I'm here," she concluded her story.

This *yungerman* shared this exchange with my husband so he should know that the children daven so beautifully that they even inspire a non-Jewish neighbor.

I am a ninth-grade Novi teacher at Beis Rivkah High School, and every year we learn the *perakim* of Sefer Melachim that describe the building of the first *Beis Hamikdash*. *Perek Ches* documents the *tefillah* Shlomo Hamelech

said during the *chanukas Beis Hamikdash*, beseeching Hashem to respond to the *tefillos* that will be offered in the *Beis Hamikdash*. Towards the end, Shlomo Hamel-ech said:

וגם אל־הַנִּכְרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מֵעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא וְבָא מֵאֶרֶץ רְחוֹקָה...
וְבָא וְהִתְפַּלֵּל אֶל־הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה: אַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע הַשְּׁמַיִם... וְעִשִּׂיתָ כְּכֹל
אֲשֶׁר־יִקְרָא אֵלַיִךְ הַנִּכְרִי לְמַעַן יִדְעוּ כָּל־עַמֵּי הָאָרֶץ אֶת־שִׁמְךָ לְיִרְאָה
אֶתְךָ כְּעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלִדְעַת כִּי־שִׁמְךָ נִקְרָא עַל־הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בְּנִיתִי
(מלכים א ח: מא-מג)

“And also to the gentile, who is not of Your people Israel, but will come from a far country...and he will come and pray toward this house. You shall hear in heaven... and do according to all that the gentile calls You for, that all peoples of the earth may know Your Name, to fear You, as (do) Your people Israel, and that they may know that Your Name is called upon this house that I have built.”

Rashi explains that regarding Yidden, Shlomo Hamelech requested “give to every man according to his ways,” indicating that he may occasionally be refused due to his unworthy behavior since a Yid will only blame himself for his *tefillah* not being answered. However, if a gentile’s *tefillah* is not fulfilled, this may lead him to have doubts about Hashem, etc. Therefore Shlomo Hamelech requested that their *tefillos* always be answered favorably.

Generally, I try to include ideas or stories from the Rebbe and Chassidus in my lessons and when we reach this section I share the story of the woman from Lincoln Place with my students, to illustrate how even non-Jews come to the Ohel to daven. I always conclude that based on Shlomo Hamelech’s *tefillah* I am sure whatever this woman davened for at the Ohel that day was certainly fulfilled.

This year one of my students lives on that block of Lincoln Place and when I recounted the story while we were learning these *pesukim* I asked her if it’s true that one can hear the boys from Oholei Torah davening from inside her home. She confirmed that she does hear them on days when Oholei Torah is in session and Beis Rivkah is not.

“Who knows?” I said in jest. “Maybe you are living in this woman’s home...”

The next day my student walked into class and said, “Mrs. Lustig, you won’t believe this. We do live in this woman’s house!”

Later that night I spoke with her mother who shared



with me all the details. Around fifteen years earlier she was in the market to purchase a home and entered a house on Lincoln Place that was for sale. She was surprised to see many magnets on the refrigerator holding up a bunch of Oholei Torah worksheets and even one magnet with a photo of the Rebbe. The homeowner explained that these papers flew into her backyard from the open school windows and in appreciation for their holiness she hung them on her refrigerator.

“And why do you have a magnet with a photo of the Rebbe?” the Lubavitcher woman asked.

“Ah, Rabbi Schneerson! Recently my son was in a terrible motorcycle accident and was barely clinging onto life. I asked one of the students I met on Eastern Parkway where they pray when they are in big trouble and he advised me on how to pray at Rabbi Schneerson’s gravesite. I did so and my son made a miraculous recovery!”

“I love this photo,” she concluded. “And in appreciation, I want to sell my home only to a follower of Rabbi Schneerson.”

Hearing this story was an emotional experience for me. After ten years of sharing this story in my lessons and confidently predicting the outcome based on the *possuk* in Novi, I finally had my confirmation.

YOUR STORY

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