



Promises Kept

Written By:

Rabbi Shabi Soffer & Rabbi Tzemach Feller

Mrs. Chana Arnold related the following story:

When I got engaged to my husband Rabbi Yitzchak Arnold, he asked me to wear a *sheitel*. He told me how wearing a *sheitel* in specific was something the Rebbe had encouraged. I said, “I’m not wearing a *sheitel* — none of my friends wear one; I’m embarrassed, everyone is going to make fun of me.”

I agreed to write a letter to the Rebbe, detailing all the reasons why I didn’t want to wear a *sheitel*. “I promise I’ll cover my hair and you’ll see the Rebbe will agree with me,” I said. “I will do whatever the Rebbe wants me to do.”

My father worked as a censor at the post office in Eretz Yisroel and letters that came from the United States would come through him. So he saw a letter for me and woke me up at the end of his shift — at about 3:30 a.m. — and told me, “Go wash *negel vasser*; there’s a letter for you.” It was from the Rebbe. I still remember that night; I was shaking, reading the letter.

The Rebbe wrote about how important it was to wear a *sheitel*, and asked how was it possible — even now (this was more than 50 years ago) when the youth in the United States are becoming more committed to Yiddishkeit and there has

been an awakening about wearing a *sheitel* — that I was still embarrassed of people and not of Hashem.

That line was the clincher.

The next day, I went to order a *sheitel*.

In the letter, the Rebbe quoted the Zohar that gives *brachos* to women who cover their hair, and says they will be blessed with “children and grandchildren.” I was married for more than six years and had not yet become pregnant. I was in constant correspondence with the Rebbe, and at one point I asked to go in for *yechidus*. While at that time it was not something that was usually granted, I got permission to go into *yechidus*. I took along the Rebbe’s letter to me from six years earlier and held it up during the *yechidus*, saying, “Rebbe, I have a promise, black on white, that I’m going to be blessed with children. I did my part — I’m wearing a *sheitel* — and I want the Rebbe to give me a *bracha* that G-d willing, I should have children.”

The Rebbe smiled at me and said, “You shouldn’t say ‘*im yirtze Hashem*’ (‘G-d willing’). You should say, ‘*b’ezras Hashem*’ (‘with G-d’s help’) because G-d wants, and G-d will help.”

Baruch Hashem I have eight children and 19 grandchildren.