

FROM THE EDITOR

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Following the recent tragedy in Meiron, Hashem yerachem (G-d have mercy on us) – may all the injured be healed and all the families who suffered a loss be comforted – I received a message that's worth sharing from Rabbi Yaacov Goodman, Founder and Director of Yedidim, an Israeli organisation that works to give struggling pre-teens and teens tools for life, enabling them to become successful members of society.

It's a timeless message and one that we should carry with us throughout our day, each and every day – something to think about at all times, but especially when things are going right, which, thankfully, is most of the time.

"I wonder, how often do we ask ourselves [the question of why do such things happen and why these people, in this place, at this time] when things are going well?

Do we ask ourselves why did I deserve waking up today, and having all the amazing parts of my body in working order? What did I do to deserve parnasah [sustenance] this week? What did I do to deserve children? And other similar questions.

On Shabbos, I asked those who were at my Shabbos table what they would suggest that I tell someone who had confided in me that he was totally broken. He is a father and grandfather who loves his children and grandchildren very much. He is quite comfortable financially and helped all his children purchase their homes and cars. He even gives them allowances to buy food and clothes and whatever else they might need. I asked him, 'That sounds wonderful, what is the issue?' He told me that, after everything he does for his children, he would like to have a relationship with them and have them express their appreciation. He said to me, 'Is it so hard for them to pick up a phone and thank me? Let them call to say, 'Hello, I love you'! I just want to be involved in their lives. Maybe I can help them out with issues that they may have, is that too much to ask?'

My family quickly realised that this was just a mashal referring to Hashem. Hashem gives us all that we need and more! All He wants is a relationship with us and that we appreciate and thank Him for everything.

We have to ask ourselves, 'What did we do to deserve all of this?' and the answer is: nothing; it is pure love and kindness from Hashem. When we internalise that, then our relationship with Hashem will become much stronger.

One of the most precious things that Hashem gives us is our children. How often do we stop and contemplate this tremendous gift? How often do we stop and think about if we are taking care of this gift in the best possible way that Hashem wants us to? By pausing to contemplate this we are already showing Hashem that we appreciate His tremendous gift."

We need to make a point of regularly looking for Hashem's hand in our lives and asking why, not just in the dark and difficult times, but even when the sun is shining bright and everything is going well. And, along with this, of showing our appreciation to Hashem, of recognising His constant presence in our lives and how much He gives to us each and every day. If we can learn to see Hashem's hand during the good times, it will make it easier to find it and recognise it during the times when it's not so easy to see.

ROBERT SUSSMAN
EDITOR

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ON THE COVER: Creative hand drawn sketch on chalkboard wall background. Idea and success concept. Bigstockphoto.com



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