

Good Shabbos Everyone. In the second part of this week's double portion Mato-Masei, the Torah details the journeys of the Bnai Yisroel (Children of Yisroel) as they traveled through the desert. Why is it so important for the the Torah to describe in such great detail the wanderings of the Jewish people? The commentator the Maor Eynayim explains that there is a reason for every place that we must go in life. Namely, we must go to that specific place to elevate the sparks of holiness, which lay there, waiting to be elevated. We elevate the sparks of holiness in that place, by making blessings over food and by doing mitzvahs in that place.

One Jew who makes it his business to travel around the world to elevate the holiness of people and places, is Rav Dovid Ordman, a senior lecturer for the organization "Arachim." Rav Ordman goes from Eretz Yisroel to distant Jewish communities such as Bangkok, South Africa, Los Angeles and Brazil, where he inspires Jews with little or no background in Judaism. Throughout the years, Rav Ordman has both heard and witnessed amazing stories. The following story is one such story which Rav Ordman heard in his travels.

Rabbi Ordman's most amazing story of all is the story of Dr. Barry Brand. Dr. Brand was a Jew who had intermarried. He knew absolutely nothing about Judaism.

One evening, he was on duty in the emergency room in a Los Angeles hospital. Suddenly they brought in a stretcher. On the stretcher lay a fellow, who seemed dead to all appearances. Apparently, the man had been walking on the street when he was suddenly struck down by a massive heart attack.

The crew attempted to revive him, but to no avail. Unfortunately, the man was D.O.A. - dead on arrival. Dr. Brand was left alone with the body as the other doctors and nurses filed out of the room. He had already removed his gloves and was about to leave.

Then suddenly, he realized that the dead man was trembling. Dr. Brand's protective mask was still in place, so he began to perform CPR once again. Mistakes do happen, after all...

Suddenly the fellow pulled off the doctor's protective mask and whispered something unintelligible. The doctor asked, "What did you say?"

The fellow repeated, "Are you Meir Chaim?" Dr. Brand was floored. No one other than himself knew his Jewish name. It had never been used once since his bris.

In complete surprise he answered, as he continued pumping the fellow's chest, "Yes, I am Meir Chaim."

The anonymous fellow asked, "Do you keep kosher?" "No," the doctor said.

"Then keep kosher. Do you lay tefillin?" came the next question.

"No, I don't," said the doctor.

"Then start!" Said the man before his head rolled back and he died - this time forever.

When Rabbi Ordman met Dr. Brand, it was clear he was not a person who suffered from hallucinations. Further investigation proved that he was a rationalist in the fullest sense of the word.

When Dr. Brand retold the story, he repeated that he did not know anything about the patient. As a matter of fact, the deceased was never identified.

Dr. Brand first made his way to an Arachim Seminar two years later, after his marriage fell apart. Only then did he remember the strange story and decide to do something about it. As we read these words, Dr. Brand is climbing higher and higher in spirituality.

It is difficult to read this story without becoming motivated to want to lead a more Torah-observant lifestyle. We may not see it, but there is an infinite spiritual world which exists around us. Let us be inspired by this amazing true story to tap into the spiritual world by increasing our Torah observance. **Good Shabbos Everyone.**