

Good Shabbos Everyone. One of the unfortunate victims of the social upheaval of the 1960's was young Moshe Kleinberg (not his real name). Moshe attended the finest yeshivas in Europe.

However, Moshe got caught up in the times and eventually left yeshiva. Once out of yeshiva, young Moshe began to slip in his mitzvah observance. The yarmulke came off, the hair grew long, Shabbos was desecrated... in a short time, Moshe became a totally secular Jew. Moshe had gone off the way of Hashem.

Moshe wandered around Europe searching for meaning. Eventually, Moshe found himself in America. Soon after arriving in America, Moshe ran out of money. He had nothing to eat and he became desperate to get a job to feed himself. One day,

Moshe picked up a newspaper and saw an advertisement which caught his eye. A yeshiva in the area was looking for a janitor. The thought of stepping foot inside a yeshiva again was a little difficult for Moshe. It had been several years since Moshe had left Yiddishkeit. However, at this point he was literally starving, so he would try anything for money. So, a little while later, Moshe walked into the yeshiva of Reb Shlomo Freifeld, of blessed memory and applied for the job of janitor.

Reb Shlomo greeted Moshe warmly and the two sat down together to speak about the position. Reb Shlomo was not surprised by the raggedy appearance which Moshe presented. In those days, all types came to learn at the yeshiva of Reb Shlomo.

However, Reb Shlomo sensed that there was something different about Moshe, he was no ordinary candidate for the job of janitor. Reb Shlomo could see into the soul of Moshe; the light was faint, but it was definitely still burning. Reb Shlomo instinctively began to ask Moshe about his background and schooling. Soon, Reb Shlomo found out what he had suspected from the very beginning: Moshe came from a religious background and had attended the finest yeshivas in Europe.

Reb Shlomo then surprised Moshe by offering the long haired young man a position as Magid Shiur. Moshe was shocked! "Me, a Magid Shiur? I have long hair. I am not religious. I have not learned for so long." Reb Shlomo would not take "no" for an answer. Moshe had learned for several years in yeshiva, surely he was qualified. And besides, Moshe was hungry and needed a job. Moshe agreed to show up a couple of days later to begin giving a shiur in Bava Metzia.

There was little time to prepare for the lesson, so Moshe hurried to begin learning again. Moshe got a hold of a Bava Metzia and began preparing for the lesson.

Moshe thought it would be funny for him to show up for the first day of work without a yarmulke, so, Moshe went out and got a yarmulke. The first day went well enough, the three students asked questions and Moshe seemed to really understand the learning.

Soon after, Moshe approached the Rosh Yeshiva Reb Shlomo and told him that he felt bad that he was not wearing tzitzis. "So get a pair of tzitzis" said Reb Shlomo. Sure enough, Moshe went out and bought a pair of tzitzis and began wearing them all the time. Eventually, Moshe felt ashamed of his long hair and so he got a more appropriate haircut for a Jewish young man. Slowly but surely, Moshe began to take on more and more mitzvahs. Shabbos, tefillin and kosher eating became a part of his life again after so many years of being away from Hashem.

Today, Moshe is a fully observant Jew with a large family with several orthodox grandchildren. Moshe and the world will forever be thankful to Reb Shlomo Freifeld, who gave a young long haired man a second chance.

Reb Shlomo saw a spark in Moshe. The long hair and the messy appearance of Moshe did not fool Reb Shlomo. Reb Shlomo felt that Moshe had potential in his soul. Reb Shlomo was right. (heard from Reb Ephroim Wachsmann who heard it from Reb Nosson Deutsch)

The Yaaros Dvash explains that most of the mitzvahs of the Torah are dependent on the mitzvah of loving our fellow Jew. Every Jew should be like a brother in our eyes, for we are all the sons of Avrohom Avinu. Yisroel is one body, with one soul. (Yaaros Dvash, Drush 5, p.115 Even Yisroel Edition)

Hashem wants us to get along and show love for each other. This idea is mentioned in our portion this week Mishpatim, when the Torah uses very strict language to teach us how to treat widows and orphans. Hashem tells us "Do not cause pain to the widow and orphan. If you do cause him pain, when he cries to Me, I will hear his cry. And I will become very angry and I will kill you with a sword, and your wives will be widows and you children will be orphans" (Shemos 22:21-23) Hashem so much wants us to treat others with compassion, that Hashem actually threatens to kill us if we mistreat another Jew!

Therefore, we should train ourselves and our children to look at the potential that lies in every Jewish heart. Every Jew was created in the image of Hashem no matter what his background, no matter what he dresses like, no matter how far off the way he has gone. As the Torah tells us in parshas Bereishis: "Hashem created the man in His image, in the image of Hashem did He create him" (Bereshis1:27) Why does the verse repeat itself? The Torah repeats itself to emphasize that all Jews were created in the image of Hashem. The verse is telling us "Hashem created the man in His image, in the image of Hashem did He create him. Even him! Who looks like he is so far away from Hashem." Let us strive to treat our fellow Jews with love and compassion always. It all starts with saying... **Good Shabbos Everyone.**