

Good Shabbos Everyone. [Last week](#) we began the amazing true story of how the Gerrer Rebbe sent one of his Chassidim on a journey to seek help for a tax-bill misunderstanding in Israel. We now conclude the story...

The mourner continued to tell the story about his sick daughter... The Gerrer Rebbe had sent an apple to the father of the sick girl and instructed the man to give a piece of the apple to his daughter. The young girl was on a I.V., so the man failed to see how it would be possible to feed her the apple. Nevertheless, the man had belief that his Rebbe would somehow be able to intercede on his behalf in Heaven on behalf of the girl. As the Sages tell us, "A Tzaddik (righteous person) decrees, and Hashem carries out the decree." (Medrash Tanchuma Vayerah 19)

The man went home and baked the apple well until it was very soft. And then, he took some back to his daughter's hospital room. Somehow, he managed to feed a little bit to his ailing daughter. Miracle upon miracles... the girl started to recover! In a short time, the girl had a full recovery. (Lest one think that it was the actual apple which caused the girl to get better, it is much deeper than that. The apple was symbolic of the Rebbe's concern for the girl. Another way of understanding this is that the Rebbe prayed very intensely for the girl's health and out of humility, he wanted to "hide" the power of his prayer, so he gave the apple, which apparently brought about the recovery.)

The mourner concluded his story and the assembled people gasped at the amazing nature of the recovery of the girl, who only recently was married, Boruch Hashem. What is more interesting about the story is the following: Yitzchok, the man with the tax problems spoke up and told the mourner that he was the bochur who had brought the apple to the mourner some 20 years earlier! What's even more amazing is that the mourner worked in a government office. And in what government office did he work? The Tax Authority office. In short, after the Shivah ended, the mourner took care of Yitzchok's problems in short order.

The divine assistance and intervention involved with this story was amazing. Yitzchok had the tax problem. He went to the Gerrer Rebbe, the Gerrer Rebbe sent Yitzchok to Moshe Spiro, who has nothing to do with the Israeli Tax Authority. When Yitzchok arrived at Moshe Spiro's house, Moshe was on his way to console a mourner in Tel Aviv. Yitzchok accepted Moshe's invitation to join him in a ride to Tel Aviv. Moshe convinced Yitzchok to go into the apartment to join him in consoling the mourner. Yitzchok had not wanted to go in, because he did not know the mourner, or so he thought. The mourner saw the two Gerrer Chassidim and decided to tell the story of his sick daughter and the Gerrer Rebbe from many years earlier. The messenger with the apple was Yitzchok! The mourner asked Yitzchok why he came to console him. Yitzchok would normally not have initiated a discussion regarding such mundane things as the tax issue in the presence of a mourner. And then, as it turns out, the mourner worked in the Tax office!

We read about the role of Tzaddikim - our righteous leaders in this week's Torah portion Shlach. Hashem grows angry with the Jewish people regarding their acceptance of the evil report on Eretz Yisroel, the holy land of Israel. Hashem wishes to destroy the Jewish Nation. Moshe Rabeinu, the epitome of a leader, intercedes on behalf of the Jewish people. Hashem accepts Moshe's request for mercy; Hashem tells Moshe Rabeinu "I have forgiven [the Jewish Nation] because of your words." (Bamidbar 14:20) From here we see an example for the Generations. Hashem bestows on each generation righteous Torah leaders who beseech Hashem on behalf of the individual and the Nation. That is not to say that Tzadikim have a monopoly on prayer, Heaven forbid! Each and every person can pray for his and his friend's benefit. Rather, Tzadikim have an elevated status and can ask Hashem for wondrous things. So, let us all seek out Tzadikim so that we too can reap the benefits of what it means to be close to the righteous.

Good Shabbos Everyone.