

Good Shabbos Everyone Rashi at the end of the parsha states: "And he [the butler] forgot about him [Yosef]..." Yosef had been imprisoned in Pharaoh's house and he had asked the butler, who would soon be released, to intercede on Yosef's behalf. Since Yosef had made himself dependent on the butler, he was punished by being imprisoned for another two years, as the verse states (Tehillim 40:5), "Happy is the man who puts his trust in God, who does not turn to rehavim, the arrogant," meaning that he does not trust in Egypt, which is called rahav [the singular of rehavim]. The following story as told by Yossy Gordon about his uncle Rabbi Sholom Gordon of blessed memory, illustrates the importance in putting one's trust in Hashem.

"Reb Sholom Gordon was a Lubavitch emissary in New Jersey, starting in the early forties. Over the years, he touched thousands of lives. Sometime around 1960, the mother of a former student of Uncle Sholom approached him with a problem. Her daughter, who had reached marriageable age several years before, was having a hard time finding a shidduch (match).

Aware of the Rebbe's reputation for being insightful and for giving blessings, the desperate mother asked Sholom to arrange a meeting for her with the Rebbe. Sholom complied, and even drove the mother, along with her son who was accompanying her, to meet the Rebbe, of righteous memory. "When Hashem sends her bashert... then I will close the store"

My uncle waited outside. When the mother emerged from the Rebbe's office, she looked upset. "What happened?" Sholom inquired. "Well," answered the mother, "I went in to the Rebbe and asked him for a blessing for my daughter's shidduch. I was surprised when the Rebbe began to ask me questions about my life. He asked me what our source of livelihood is. I told him that we have a very successful store in Newark. The Rebbe asked me if the store is open on Shabbos. I told him that it is.

"Then, and this is what I really do not understand, the Rebbe suggested that since we are financially secure, we should close our store on Shabbos and that G-d will then send our daughter her bashert (intended one). I countered that we need the store to provide for our daughter in case something happens to us and she does not get married.

When G-d sends her bashert... then I will close the store. The Rebbe disagreed. "Rabbi Gordon," continued the woman, "I am from Europe. I know chassidic rebbes. I thought they just gave blessings and wanted a donation. I didn't come here for business advice..."

Years went by. 1967 arrived and with it came the Newark Riots and violence and vandalism. The store owned by Sholom's former student's parents was among those destroyed in the melee. Already nearing retirement age, and with her husband having passed away shortly beforehand, the mother decided not to rebuild the store. The store was finally closed on Shabbos. Within a few months, the daughter met her bashert. Today, thank Hashem, she is the mother of a well-respected family, thankfully, before it was too late. **Good Shabbos Everyone.**