

A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



ENSURING HE LOWERS THE PRICE

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Aaron lived with his family in a small apartment. His family was growing, and they needed to expand their living quarters. They were desperately looking to purchase a home. In their community, there weren't many homes available. Finally, Aaron found a home that was for sale by the owner, who was another Jewish fellow. Aaron called the owner, whose name was David, and inquired about the price. David mentioned the price, and Aaron felt that it was a bit too high and out of his budget. Aaron asked David if the price was negotiable, but David said no. Aaron felt terrible that it was out of his reach. He thought that this home could have been perfect for him.

Then he had an idea. What if a bunch of people could persuade David that

HAVE TRUST, WILL SING

As we approached the Land of Israel ready to enter, the only swath of land separating us from entering was the land belonging to Adom. After Moshe's request for them to allow us to pass through was rejected we needed to change our course of travel to go around Adom. As we began moving in the direction of the Red Sea, in order to go around Adom our ancestors could not take it. The idea of prolonging the journey even longer was too much for them. The Torah describes their reaction as "their soul became shortened because of their travels", meaning they could not handle the newly extended travel course and they complained.

Rashi explains "Anything that is difficult for a person is referred to as 'their soul is shortened' When a challenge confronts a person and his ability to accept it is not wide enough to absorb that challenge and there is no space available in his heart to accommodate that challenge this challenge is referred to as 'large' and therefore it overwhelms the person because he has no place to carry the challenge."

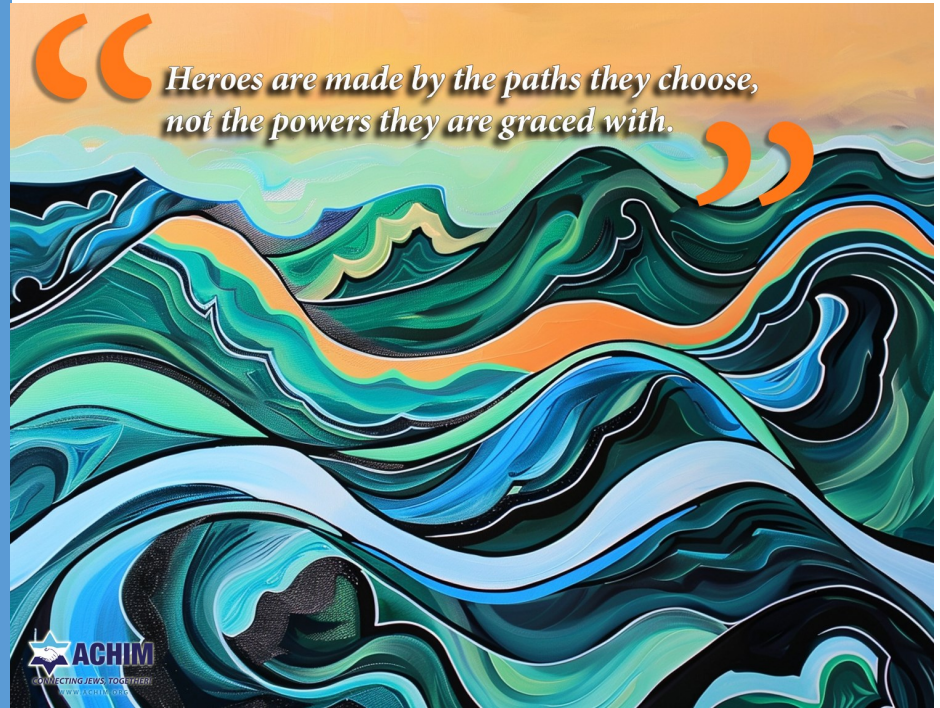
Rashi seems to be teaching us that the heart of Man is the repository for all emotions that he experiences. As with anything, the matter that is stored in a repository must be smaller than the repository itself. If the heart cannot contain the emotion, the person loses himself and the emotion takes over. If one's heart is small and their burden is large they will be lost to that burden. The solution for this unfortunate individual is to either enlarge their heart to fit their troubles in or shrink their troubles so that they fit in the heart. However, when a person is overwhelmed by a looming burden there is truly no room in their heart. No

the price was really too high? He sent a message to five of his closest friends and explained the situation. He said, "There is this house that I'm looking to buy, but the owner is firm on the price, and it's too high for me. Could you each call him on different days, and ask to see the house. Then after you see the house ask about the price. When he tells you the asking price, say something like, 'Are you dreaming? Do you think you can get such a high price for such a house?' Hopefully, if all these different people conveyed to David that the price was too high, he might agree to reconsider and sell it at a lower price."

After Aaron set his plan in motion, his wife heard about it. She asked, "Are you sure you should do that?" Aaron replied, "Why not? They're just helping me negotiate the price." His wife said, "But you're sending all these people to pressure him. You'll be hurting his feelings and bothering him." Aaron responded, "This is business, and there's nothing wrong with me asking him to lower the price." His wife insisted that he ask a Rav if this practice was permitted according to the Torah.

What do you think? Was it permitted for Aaron to send five of his friends to pressure David to lower the price?

See Upiryo matok Devarim Page 220



matter how big a heart they may have, it is overwhelming.

The solution for such a situation is to find strength and resolve by throwing one's challenge onto HaShem as the Psalmist writes (55:23) Cast your burden upon HaShem and He will sustain you. He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. Encountering the heavy burden actually becomes the means of enriching one's attachment to HaShem. Even for the one who trusts in HaShem and turns to Him constantly for the wonderful life He graces them, nevertheless once they are thrown a heavy burden their reliance upon HaShem becomes that much greater and their relationship with Him becomes that much richer.

It is no wonder why the punishment our ancestors received for complaining came in the form of snakes. The snake's reputation is the one who tells Man not to rely upon HaShem. That first Snake enticed Adam and Chava to eat from the Tree

so that they would be like HaShem and would not need to come to Him.

This week our community lost a great person with the passing of Rena Lapin Baron. Forty two years ago Rena was born with a smile on her face. In fact, her parents were inspired to give that name because of that smile. It never left her face. Even when she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer three years ago that smile remained on her face radiating joy and gratitude. She and her husband Yoni have a beautiful family of seven children. She accepted this enormous burden with total equanimity because she knew how much HaShem cared for her and for her family. There could be nothing bad about her situation. It was all overseen by HaShem.

We are taught that the passing of great people brings atonement to our people. This is certainly true when people learn from her ways and bring the simcha and trust that she had into their lives. To quote Yoni's reflection "The next time you find the fear of tomorrow taking away your today, remember Rena and be present in the moment."

Have a wonderful Shabbos.

Paysach Diskind



SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

AMAZING FACES (PART TWO)

Hashem is such an incredible artist. As we saw last week, some animals have special markings that make them resemble human faces. Please join me as we explore another two amazing creatures.

PEACOCK SPIDER

The Peacock Spider, native to Australia, is one of the most extraordinary and visually stunning members of the arachnid family. Known for their vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and unique courtship dances, these tiny spiders are a marvel of nature, capturing the fascination of scientists and enthusiasts alike.

Peacock Spiders are diminutive in size, typically measuring between 3 to 7 millimeters in length. Despite their small stature, male Peacock Spiders boast an array of vivid colors and intricate patterns on their abdomen, which they flaunt during their elaborate courtship displays. These colors can range from iridescent blues and greens to striking reds and oranges, reminiscent of a peacock's feathers, hence their name. The courtship behavior of male Peacock Spiders is perhaps their most fascinating feature. During mating season, the male performs an elaborate dance to attract a female. This display involves raising and vibrating their brilliantly colored abdomen, extending their legs, and moving side-to-side in a rhythmic pattern.

Peacock spiders, particularly the species *Maratus volans*, are renowned for their vibrant, human-like facial patterns on their abdomens. These intricate and colorful markings resemble expressive faces, complete with what appear to be eyes and a mouth, adding to their allure and charm. The "faces" are part of the male spiders' dazzling courtship display, where they fan out their abdominal flaps and perform an elaborate dance to attract mates.

DEATH'S-HEAD HAWKMOTH

The Death's-head Hawkmoth (*Acherontia* spp.) is an extraordinary and enigmatic species of moth that has captured human imagination for centuries. Known for its distinctive skull-like marking on its thorax, this moth has been a subject of myths, folklore, and scientific curiosity.

The most striking feature of the Death's-head Hawkmoth is the skull-like pattern on its thorax, which has contributed to its ominous reputation. This pattern, coupled with its robust body and large size—wingspans can reach up to 13 centimeters—makes it easily recognizable.

Death's-head Hawkmoths exhibit several unique behaviors that set them apart from other moths. One of the most fascinating is their ability to produce a squeaking sound when threatened. This sound is generated by expelling air from their pharynx and serves as a defense mechanism to startle predators. Additionally, these moths have a peculiar diet preference that includes honey. They are known to raid beehives, using their thick cuticle and resistance to bee stings to their advantage. They employ a stealthy approach, emitting chemical signals that mimic those of the bees to avoid detection.

The Death's-head Hawkmoth has been steeped in mythology and cultural symbolism. Its eerie appearance and the skull-like marking have led to associations with death and the supernatural. In various cultures, it has been considered an omen of misfortune or death, and its presence has inspired numerous legends and stories. Despite their fearsome reputation, Death's-head Hawkmoths play a significant role in their ecosystems. As pollinators, they contribute to the reproduction of various plant species, and their larvae serve as a food source for a range of predators.

THROUGH FIRE & WATER

The story is well-known: On July 9, 2019, 35-year-old Rabbi Reuven Bauman (pictured, top) was on a Virginia beach, chaperoning day campers. Some of the boys got too close to the water's choppy edge and were caught off-guard by a giant wave. Seeing the boys struggle to regain their balance in the now-deep water, Reuven immediately threw off his shoes and rushed in to save them. During those perilous moments, Reuven held the boys tightly, keeping them from slipping out further. A nearby fisherman helped the boys reach shore safely. Yet suddenly, Reuven himself was caught in a treacherous rip tide and swept out to sea; his body was recovered five days later.

From where did Reuven derive this extraordinary sense of courage and self-sacrifice for others? After speaking with the Bauman family, the rest of the story can now be told.

New York City, 1967. Reuven's paternal grandfather, Wilhelm Bauman (known fondly as Willy, pictured bottom), was a cabinet-maker. While out on a job, Willy's partner was working in an adjacent room. Suddenly Willy heard a massive explosion. Highly-flammable glue had combusted – consuming the adjacent room in flames.

Disregarding his personal safety, Willy rushed into the dangerous inferno and pulled out his injured partner – likely saving the man's life.

In the process, however, Willy was critically injured with third-degree burns covering much of his body. Doctors did not expect him to live through the night.

Willy stayed in intensive care for many months, and eventually – with the help of an experimental burn unit – returned home to his family. Though his ability to walk was permanently damaged (he often used a wheelchair), Willy lived another 40 productive years.

Rabbi Mark Bauman was 12 years old when his father performed this exceptional deed. Mark is also the father of Reuven Bauman, whose valiant rescue on a Virginia beach echoes his grandfather's lifesaving deed of 50 years earlier. "Between my father and my son," Mark says of the heroic courage transmitted through generations, "it was fire and water."



THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about giving money from the Free Loan Society to support the extension that the lender opposed, Rav Zilberstein writes that if, according to Halacha, the extension was allowed to be built, then the loan would have to be given (see Upiryo MatoK Devarim, page 187).

This week's TableTalk is dedicated in honor of the engagement of
Eli Schuchman to Naomi Kreymer
May they merit to build a beautiful bayis ne'man b'Yisroel

by Eitan and Ariella Schuchman



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