

Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT

Posted by Ben Moshe - 26 Jul 2009 14:39

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Chevra--

Here's another short story for you to enjoy. If you like this piece you may also like my earlier posting ("Torah and Tefillah - Fresh perspectives from an FFBBT")

## **Return to Walmart**

Your phone rings.

It's your wife.

"Can you stop off at Walmart to pick up some groceries?"

"Sure."

You take down the details, then draw a deep breath. Your delightfully clueless wife is sending you into the Gaza Strip, into Afghanistan, because Walmart on a hot and humid summer afternoon, will be full with unwanted stimuli and slippery distraction, not ben-Torah friendly, certainly not recovering ben-Torah friendly. However, you don't panic. You remind yourself that you know the drill, you have learned neat tricks, and have even learned to turn the tables to your advantage...

You are fortunately blessed with near-sightedness so, before you leave your car, you deliberately remove your glasses, then leave them in your car. You think back fondly to the first time you tried this. You remember the thrill you felt, as you trod those aisles, ten-feet tall, empowered by an enveloping haze which acted like a spiritual buffer. You had felt insulated and protected. You had felt holy, racking up points like a rapidly clacking Geiger counter. "Good work," you had said to yourself when you had completed your mission. You had given yourself a

pat on your back.

This time you are even better prepared. You enter the store with your mp3-player nestled in your shirt pocket, earpieces comfortably in your ears. You head over to the canned vegetable aisle. Rabbi Reisman is giving a *blatt* shiur. A fascinating *Ketzos*. Is *shavya naphsha a din in ne'emonus*, or is it *mita'am neder*? You peer (shortsightedly) at the canned corn. Sixty-eight cents a can? A *metzia*. You take a half dozen cans. Kesubos is too heavy to focus on the moment, despite your insulating fog, so you switch to something a little lighter. You switch to Rabbi Yisroel Brog analyzing the Steipler's letters on how to guide people with OCD affecting their performance of Halacha. *Geshmak!* You drool over the hortatory smorgasbord at your fingertips. You give your player a surreptitious kiss, then return it to your pocket. You are now in the cereal aisle, but notice that Krispies have just been reformulated with an OUD. Chalav Stam? You can't have that. That's *metamtem es halev!* Then you laugh at yourself: the foolish hypocrite that you are! Is there any part of your *lev* that is not *metumtem*? But you are thoroughly enjoying yourself. By the time you reach the checkout lane you have downed a Reb Simcha Bunim Cohen's Thursday night Chovas Halevovos shiur, and just begun a Kehilas HaGra shiur on copyright laws as applied to ripping CDs...

The magazines at checkout inform and inspire. The cover of one magazine tells you that Britney's ex says that Britney is cheating during rehab. You remove your earpieces. You now hear the store's music system. Synthesized Britney is belting out an important message. Britney says that she loves you. Just Britney and you. You feel romance in the air. Then, you think back to your forbears. Volozhin. Slabodka. In those days people had **manly yetzer horas**. Haskala. Socialism. Secular Zionism. You remember once reading how the Alter of Slabodka asked Reb Yaakov Kaminetsky to keep an eye on mail arriving for the young Reb Aaron Kotler (*zecher tzaddikim ukedoshim livracha*). The Alter wanted to make sure that Reb Aaron's relatives would not prevail upon him with their alien ideas. You giggled as you tried to imagine the Alter keeping tabs on what Reb Aaron was downloading to his cell phone. Oy! What yeridas hadoros!

You arrive home.

"Successful?" your wife asks.

"Yes."

She appears to be excited.

"Guess what," she says, "I have a new chicken recipe."

Bless her. The lovable, delightful, clueless fuzzball. She is blissfully unaware of the battles you have fought and the monsters you have slain. She proceeds to give you blow by blow details of her new idea for chicken and you smile at her warmly. But your mind is far away. There is something bothering you: How can *shavya naphsha* be a *din* in *ne'emanus* if *ein odom mesim atzmo rosho*?!

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by the.guard - 27 Jul 2009 18:07

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Ben Moshe didn't mean "fuzzball" as in superficial. He just meant it in a "cute and lovable" way... I really like that word!!

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by kutan - 27 Jul 2009 19:10

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R Guard, you are definitely a gilgul of Aharon Hkohen. Bardichev could not have been more on the mark. At least, a nitzutz!

**Pintele Yid, start fresh from NOW! The past is gone, both the shteiging and the nefilos.**

We know your strengths you definitely **can** do it!

Check out Jerusalem Addicts aka Uri's post. He's fighting tough. If he can do it, we have GOT to follow!

kutan

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Pintele Yid - 27 Jul 2009 20:24

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[guardureyes wrote on 27 Jul 2009 18:07:](#)

Ben Moshe didn't mean "fuzzball" as in superficial. He just meant it in a "cute and lovable" way... I really like that word!!

I still think the issue is still an issue. Women don't appreciate the struggles we go through and therefore we are faced with Nisyonos on account of this. :(

[kutan shel hachabura wrote on 27 Jul 2009 19:10:](#)

**Pintele Yid, start fresh from NOW! The past is gone, both the shteiging and the nefilos.**

We know your strengths you definitely **can** do it!

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follow!

kutan

Thank you Kutan for your vote of confidence. It gives me strength to know that the heiliga

It is Hashgacha Pratiyos that you gave the advice of Hischadshus. I was just learning about it in Rav Arush's sefer B'Gan Hachochma. I"Y"H when I get some victories under my belt, I will hopefully post on what he said. Right now in my situation, I don't feel it is appropriate until I am back on track.

Pintele Yid

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chabura is in my corner rallying for me  
Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by 7yipol - 27 Jul 2009 20:26

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[kutan shel hachabura wrote on 27 Jul 2009 16:30:](#)

Ben-Moshe,

Thanks for the story, and even more, for the mareh mekomos... especially the kehilla.org site that I never was aware of before.

About Chaim's objections, I can relate to his being uncomfortable with the description of the wife. I personally have his type of relationship with my wife, basically her fault, but she discusses a lot of ruchniyus with me. She knows about my nisyonos, although not from me personally, and I really wish she knew more but am also too embarrassed to tell her openly.

She did find the GUI handbook (the attitude one) recently....

But, Chaim, a lot depends on the wife. I think that some are indeed the 'fuzzball' type and should not be involved. (Rebetzin 7Up, is this true?) I have several daughters b"H, and one is deep, one is superficial (a fuzzball), one is pure logic etc. They are little children... no issue of bechira, just their nature.

And the men's attitude towards the wife is also a cultural thing. I personally know several men from a country 'down under' who all have this macho attitude toward women, so I assume that that is the norm in those countries, and most likely the women there are ok with it.

I will add my 2 cents just because its been requested.

Personally, I have no problem with the 'fuzzball'. I honestly feel that it was said as a sign of affection and not as a put-down.

Having said that, I think the Bardichever ( not "our" Bardichever, sorry) must be racing to Hashem in shamayim, singing the praises of the men of GYE. "Look Hakadosh Baruch Hu; the very men who have been immersed in the filth of SA are the ones standing up for the kavod of Your holy daughters! Instead of seeing them as sexual objects, like the rest of the world does, they rush to the defense of even a *fictitious* Bas Yisroel! How holy and special are Your sons Tattle!

Affectionately,

a Bas Yisrael

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by kutan - 27 Jul 2009 20:37

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Our Bardichever would have done the same. but his mazel, he seems to be offline today.

Pintele, waiting for your feedback tomorrow!

Knowing that your back and up and fighting will help me too!

Best wishes,

Kutan

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Ben Moshe - 27 Jul 2009 21:13

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7up:

*Fictitious?*

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by 7yipol - 27 Jul 2009 21:15

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[Ben Moshe wrote on 27 Jul 2009 21:13:](#)

7up:

*Fictitious?*

Oops; I didnt mean to insult your fuzzball!

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by jerusalemsexaddict - 27 Jul 2009 22:14

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is she a fuzzball?is she not a fuzzball?what is a fuzzball?did he mean affectionate?did he mean she really is a ball of fuzz?you know how the saying goes:One frum shmiras einayim website,200 opinions on the meaning of the word "fuzzball"

(thats actually not a saying yet,but im working on it ;D)

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Efshar Letaken - 27 Jul 2009 22:28

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Fuzzball Shmuzball! lol

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what a debate!only in a jewish sa forum do u see this stuff

Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT  
Posted by 7yipol - 27 Jul 2009 23:34

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Uri,

That was really funny. You're not allowed to make me laugh out loud at 2:30am! Besides, I'm just too exhausted to use the energy.



And *you're* the one who wants to put a stop to 'silly' posting and get serious??!

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Re: Return to Walmart - A short story from an FFBBT

Posted by jerusalemsexaddict - 27 Jul 2009 23:57

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;D dont make me out to be a killjoy mom.i just liked the serious posts in your threads and it was quick becoming a three stooges movie full of one-liners.sheesh ive never before been accused of being too serious lol.

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