

The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT

Posted by Ben Moshe - 28 Jul 2009 00:25

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## The Parlor Meeting

You have been under a lot of stress lately.

And that stress isn't because of petty things, such as the story someone wrote about you the other day when you spent way too long in Walmart, wearing contacts and absorbed with your Bluetooth, because that article was actually quite flattering. The writer was *dan you lechaf zechus* like nobody's business. He said that you were *fartracht* in the aisles *klerring Rashbas*, or something like that. Of course, the verisimilitude was ridiculous: there is no way you could have gotten through three or four *shiurim* in the course of a grocery run, no matter how much you tarried.

The fact that someone thought that you were dissing your wife when you thought of her as a "fuzzball", also didn't bother you. It's a regional thing. In the New York area the word means "warm and cuddly" as in "lovable fuzzball behind the E.I.B. microphone." Elsewhere, in the country, it means "scatterbrained and untidy" as in "fuzzy logic." You did, though, take one commentator's admonition to heart, and now pay special attention to your wife each time she tells you of a new chicken recipe.

The stress does stem, though, from your visit last Shabbos to the Chassidishe Rebbe's *tish* [i]see short story "Shalosh Seudos" by yours truly[/i]] because everything you have held to date so dearly is in now in upheaval. Does the non-Chassidish world have what it takes to inspire you and to keep you in touch with Hashem? You have no interest in questions about externals, such as *levush* or herring. You want to get to the guts of this matter.

You try Googling the web for answers. You try "non-Chassidish" and "inspiration" and lots of other combinations, but you get no answers, aside from a reference to a quirky story entitled "The Parlor Meeting". The internet is beginning to disappoint you. It is not what it is cracked up to be; its integrity is in question. You consider discontinuing your AT&T account, even throwing your computer into the trash. Of what value is it if it cannot provide answers to the "big" questions?

Anyway, enough with *bashmutzigen* the internet.

You glance at the day's mail.

An invitation to a parlor meeting on behalf of a well-known Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel.

The Rosh Yeshiva will be there.

So will you.

You arrive early, unfashionably early, and park yourself in the front row of folding chairs, in the very middle, right where the well-heeled *shtitzers* will sit. That does not bother you. You are alert like an eagle. As you work your way through a plate of delicious buffet chicken (you make a mental note to track down the recipe) you watch and wait.

The Rosh Yeshiva enters. A snow-white beard. *Hadras Ponim*. Intelligent and confident eyes. He greets, and is greeted, with great warmth.

The Rosh Yeshiva speaks. You are open-mouthed. You re-remind myself of the nature of a true *talmid chochom*. He has passion and eloquence, profound wisdom, and above all, **Emes**; a straight and profound *emes* which cuts to the bone and excites. His manner is untouched by the *chazer fiss* charm of society. He is not schooled in Dale Carnegie's How to Pretend you Like People and Turn them into Suckers.

You love it. You are excited. Your faith has been restored.

You leave a \$5 check.

You pray that your check does not bounce.

In your car again, you roll up the windows so that no one can hear you, and you yell joyfully at the top of your lungs, "*Hodu Lashem Ki Tov!*"

The sun shines once again.

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by 7yipol - 28 Jul 2009 09:17

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I cant stop smiling when I read your stories! ;D ;D ;D

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by the.guard - 28 Jul 2009 11:58

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LOL. I shouldn't be laughing so hard during the 9 days...

Does the non-Chassidish world have what it takes to inspire you and to keep you in touch with Hashem?

My personal opinion is, that in today's world any Litvishe Gadol who will - by Shitta - never quote a Chassidic thought, and vis-a-versa, a Chassidic Gadol who won't quote or learn from a

See also Chizuk e-mail #490 on [this page](#).

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Ben Moshe - 29 Jul 2009 13:40

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Absolutely. If you have a man in Siberia who is both freezing and starving, and you send him just warm clothing, he will not survive the winter.

That said, the following cannot be sufficiently stressed:

Without a daily regimen of energetic and focused Torah study, the Jewish mind will die. That is the bread and butter of survival and growth, and until a person gets that, he will continue to spin his wheels for the rest of his life wondering why he is getting no traction, continuously slipping backwards.

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by me - 29 Jul 2009 14:02

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My personal opinion is, that in today's world any Litvishe Gadol who will - by Shitta - never quote a Chassidic thought, and vis-a-versa,

Well said.

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Efshar Letaken - 29 Jul 2009 17:44

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Right on! Boom!

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by bardichev - 03 Aug 2009 03:23

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BEN MOSHE???

DID YOU NOT GO TO WALMART TODAY OR TO A PARLOR MEETING OR TO A TISH ??

WE MISS YOU!!

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Ben Moshe - 03 Aug 2009 14:18

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I appreciate that.

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by Efshar Letaken - 03 Aug 2009 15:24

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bardichev you crack me up!

Ben Moiseh,

Nu!?

We need some Oxygen.

Please, at least one Article a week.

Don't hide your talent from us.

E.L.

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by 7yipol - 03 Aug 2009 17:31

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Block shmuck, right Bardichev?

Tell Hashem His children on GYE are waiting for their bedtime story. We've all been as good as possible all day. Its story time. Time to demand siyata dishmaya.

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Re: The Parlor Meeting - A Short Story from an FFBBT  
Posted by bardichev - 03 Aug 2009 17:34

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THAT NY ADDITUDE IS REALLY RUBBING OFF

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