



KI HEIM
CHAYEINU
כי הם חיינו



Discover the Joy
of Shabbos

To Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk

By Rav Paysach Krohn shlita (Shiur E24)

Noticing the need of a youngster can reverberate for generations.

Paysach Sheni – the person, not the date

Some years ago, a teenage boy took an interest in, and started listening to, various recordings of talks that I gave over the years. An active, boy, he took his interest a step further and began imitating me. In jest, he began referring to himself, and others referred to him as Paysach Sheni (referring to my name, Paysach).

When I was alerted to this young man's interest and skill at imitation, I reached out to speak to him. I learned that he was an orphan with two living parents. His father had deserted the home and left his mother an עגונה. Apart from the tragic situation in which his mother found herself, the situation also left this boy without an anchor nor a rudder.

Who will daven and learn with him?

His mother did what she could to look after his physical needs, but it became clear, as is often the case with boys growing up without a father, that nobody was taking him to Daven nor learning with him to build his connection with Torah. A boy in his situation is at risk on every level.

Time was of the essence. Boys who lack a guide to help them daven become distanced from speaking with Hashem. And a boy whose father does not take an interest in his learning often

becomes 'hard of hearing' when it comes to Torah.

My wife and I invited him often to join our table for Shabbos which allowed him to learn Zemiro and hear Divrei Torah in a warm wholesome environment. But he needed an angel, and an angel stepped forward to help.

His Angel stepped in for him

His angel turned out to be Rav Yaakov Landesman שליט"א. R' Yaakov met our 'Paysach Sheni' and understood what was needed. R' Yaakov picked him up and took him with him so

that they could Daven together. Then he would sit with him and learn with him. If he did this once, it would be commendable. Doing this several times would be a sign of devotion.

Rav Landesman met with 'Paysach Sheni' for *ten years!* He stayed with

the Chesed of providing a father figure in his life until the young man was ready to go to learn in ארץ ישראל.

As an aside, eventually his father agreed to give his mother a Get. Sadly, too many years had passed for his mother to restart her life. And had those around Paysach Sheni waited all those years there would have been very few pieces of his life to pick up, as well. Fortunately, they did not sit by and Paysach Sheni was able to thrive בסייעתא דשמיא.

*Rav Landesman
met with
'Paysach Sheni'
for ten years!*



KI HEIM
CHAYEINU
כי הם חיינו



Discover the Joy
of Shabbos

Thinking through the need

The אֲשֶׁרִי מִשְׁכִּיל אֶל דָּל¹ stresses the Posuk – fortunate is the one who uses his Sechel when dealing with a person in need. The Posuk concludes with the promise that one who does so 'בְּיוֹם רָעָה יִמְלֹטֵהוּ ה' – on the 'bad day' (referring to the day in which each person must stand in judgement and answer for his life) Hashem will safeguard him. One never loses when one thinks through the needs of another.

The next chapter

I have remained in touch with Paysach Sheni who has become an Avreich and is living in ארץ ישראל. My respect for him has always been high. But his stock went up to new levels when he reported that he became aware of a boy without a father in his neighborhood. And he began to speak with the boy. And he began to learn with the boy. And sometimes they Daven together and other times the boy goes to his Shul of choice. And the meetings did not happen once. And they did not only happen several times. They have been getting together for over three years.

Paysach Sheni has the maturity to pass on that which he received. Yet another generation is learning about caring and using one's Sechel to deal with the needs of another.

Takeaway: I will try to identify and reach out to a fatherless boy so that he can grow to Torah and Mitzvos.

Beyond the story

I am not telling this story simply to praise Rav Landesman nor to just 'kvell' about Paysach Sheni and his wonderful growth. I am telling this story to inspire, encourage, and plead with you to open your eyes and notice the fatherless boys around you. They are vulnerable in every possible way. They need someone who will provide them with a haven. They need the example and guidance to grow emotionally and spiritually. They need a father-figure to pick them up and walk with them to Shul.

They likely do not know how to reach out and ask for the support that they need. That is where the מִשְׁכִּיל אֶל דָּל comes in. I am asking you to be that Maskil. Do not sit by while a boy's developmental years slip by without a guide. Open your eyes and heart to be that guide.

The numbers are growing

Unfortunately, the number of such boys is growing. They are each orphaned. Some have living fathers, some do not; the common denominator is that nobody is walking him to Shul. Nobody is creating a safe place for that boy to feel at home in Shul or to speak in matters of Torah.

You may be his lifeline.

¹ תהלים מא:ב