



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פרשת נח

Forgiving Friends

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Forgiving Friends

Yitzy “had it” with Eli. “Enough is enough!” Yitzy thought. Eli had picked on him before, but this time it was just too much! Eli had embarrassed him in front of the entire class; it was very very embarrassing – and Yitzy was just not in the mood of forgiving him; not now and not tomorrow and not forever.

Sure enough, when Eli called Yitzy on the phone Erev Yom Kippur and asked him, “Please be *moichel* me for embarrassing you last week,” so Yitzy just hung up on him. He didn’t even say no. He just hung up without saying a word. Probably because if he would have tried to say even one word, he would have started crying.

After Yom Tov Yitzy came back to school and just made believe that Eli wasn’t there. He didn’t play with him and he didn’t talk to him. He didn’t even look at him. He figured that if he pretended that Eli didn’t exist, maybe he wouldn’t get his feelings hurt again.

Even when Eli tried to be nice and do little things like lending Yitzy his fancy new mechanical pencil, or smiling at him during recess, Yitzy just ignored him. He wasn’t going to let Eli just be friends again because of a little pencil or a make-believe smile.

But all that changed when Yitzy’s rebbi said his regular erev Shabbos *d’var Torah*. Rebbi’s *divrei Torah* were always good, but this one was really special and Yitzy felt like the Torah was talking directly to him.

“In Parshas Noach,” Rebbi Kaplan said, “It says that when Noach came out of the *teivah* he brought a *korban* to Hashem. And the *possuk* says that when Hashem smelled the good smell of the *korban* roasting on the fire, He said, ‘Never again will I bring another *Mabul* on the whole world. That delicious smell makes Me so happy



and because of that I'm making a promise now that I'll never punish the whole world again."

"Now, we all know that Hashem doesn't care about a good roast. And He surely doesn't care about how good it smells while it cooks! So what does it mean that Hashem enjoyed the sweet smell of the

Korban and that's why He made such a big promise to the whole world?

"And the answer," said Rabbi Kaplan, "is that Hashem is teaching us a lesson for how we should behave. Hashem wants us to imitate Him and use even little and unimportant things to make-up with people and overlook things that upset us. The gemara (Eiruvim 65b) says that this is the lesson we can learn from this possuk."

"Hashem had a very good reason to bring the Mabul," said Rabbi Kaplan. "And if people would do terrible aveiros again, He would have a very good reason to bring another Mabul on the world. Even today, we would always have to be worried, maybe Hashem is



going to destroy the world again with a Mabul. But Hashem let Himself become appeased with the good smell of the korban and He promised He would never bring another Mabul in order to teach us how we should behave with people who do aveiros against us. He wants to teach us that we should let even little things, like the good aroma of roasting meat, convince us to make up with people.”

When Yitzzy heard that it went right into his heart! “Hashem wants me to imitate Him,” thought Yitzzy, “and to learn how to make up with people using even the smallest things. If Hashem can be appeased by a good smell, so I for sure can be appeased with a pencil and a smile.”

As soon as Rebbi Kaplan gave a recess, Yitzzy walked over to Eli with a big smile on his face and said, “You remember that pencil you wanted to lend me? I changed my mind — it’s nice of you to offer and I’d like to borrow it.” Eli couldn’t believe his ears but he reached into his pencil case and handed his new pencil to Yitzzy. “Thank you,” said Yitzzy, “It’s good to have a friend like you.” And Yitzzy walked away knowing that he was imitating Hashem, which is exactly why Hashem wrote that possuk in our parsha.

Have a wonderful Shabbos !

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