



**RABBI JUDAH**

**MISCHEL**

Mashpiah, OU-NCSY  
Executive Director, Camp HASC

Dedicated L'Iluv Nishmas HaChaver  
Shlomo Michael ben Meir z'l

## Turn Aside!

For eighteen years, R' Chessed Halberstam was one of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's personal attendants. He also had a unique *shlichus*: each day, he had the privilege of driving Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson, a'h, the Lubavitcher Rebbitzin, to a park on Long Island. There she would enjoy some fresh air, feed the birds, and enjoy some desperately needed private down-time.

One day, as they neared their exit on the Long Island Expressway, they found that their regular route was closed off due to construction. The side streets were congested and the traffic moved very slowly. As they were driving, they noticed a group of people gathered outside a house and a number of people crying.

When they stopped at the traffic light, the Rebbetzin turned to the driver and asked him to return to the spot where the people had gathered. They turned around and arrived at the scene. Movers were *shlepping* furniture and loading up a truck belonging to the county marshal. R'

Chessed found out what was happening: A poor Russian family was being evicted from their home because they were in arrears for the rent.

The Rebbetzin inquired how much the woman owed, and if the marshal would accept a personal check. The sum that the family owed was \$6,700. When the marshal confirmed with the bank that the check was covered, the Rebbetzin wrote out a check for the full amount, gave it to the bailiff, and asked him if the same men who took the furniture out of the house could please bring it back in. She then quickly took leave of the scene before the family would recognize who their benefactress was.

As they made their way to the park, R' Chessed couldn't contain himself and asked the Rebbetzin what had prompted her to give such a large sum to a total stranger: "When I was a little girl, my father (the Frierdiker Rebbe) told me that anytime something causes us to deviate from our normal routine, there is a Divinely ordained reason. When I saw the detour sign instructing us to deviate from our regular route, I remembered my

Secluded Vacation  
Retreat that sleeps 50

- Large Heated Pool
- Kosher Kitchen
- Sports / Game Room
- Kid Friendly

[isravilla.com](http://isravilla.com) 058.416.6927



Northern Galilee

father's words and immediately thought to myself: every day we drive by this street; suddenly the street's closed off, and we're sent to a different street. I realized that we had been sent along this route for a purpose"

.....

In this week's *sedra*, while fleeing from Egypt, Moshe makes his way through the remote desert toward Midyan: וַיָּרָא ה' כִּי סָר לְרֵאשִׁית וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו אֱלֹקִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסֵּה “Hashem saw that he [Moshe] had turned aside to see the burning bush, and God called out to him from amid the bush....” (*Shemos*, 3:4).

The great Mashgiach of Mir, Rav Yechezkel Levenstein, zt'l wondered why this is such a noteworthy occurrence, “Wouldn't anyone turn to look and see such an uncommon, extraordinary sight? How could someone not notice a burning bush in the middle of the desert, ablaze and not being consumed?” However, if we are not present in all our ways, we might do just that.

“*Sar liros*, Moshe turned aside to see...” Our sages (*Shemos Rabbah*, 1:27) suggest that this is not a description of what occurred, rather an indication of the type of person that Moshe Rabbeinu was: someone who stopped to notice, someone who saw and internalized the Divine message in whatever was occurring.

Even more significant than what Moshe saw on the road — the content of the experience — was the awakening that he experienced as a result: how Moshe Rabbeinu saw himself as a result of the experience. In “turning aside” he was not

just moving toward the burning bush; he was moving toward himself. Moshe learned and recognized that he was being called upon, that there was a message that he needed to transmit, and that he was capable of helping to bring redemption.

Moshe's experience at the *Sneh* was the starting point of a life of leadership, of *nosei b'ol chaveiro*, 'lifting the burden of another' and sensitivity to the needs of others. Because Moshe Rabbeinu interpreted what he encountered on the road as instructive, not merely special or out of the ordinary in itself, he saw *himself* differently. This experience prepared him to be the teacher and transmitter of Torah to *Am Yisrael*.

Cultivating a growth mindset and being awake to all that we encounter orients us toward enjoying the sights, sounds and spiritual opportunities along the way.

In our daily routines and inevitable deviations and detours, may we believe in the Divine guidance of our journey, and 'turn aside' toward embracing our life's purpose and mission. ■



Trust Properties Ltd.

**For Sale - Gorgeous apartment in Old Katamon**  
In a unique Old Arab style building - Spacious 110sqm, 4 room apartment with Sukah balcony, Shabbat elevator, parking & large separate storage room. lots of character, excellent condition, central A/C Truly one of a kind! 5,280,000nis

**For Sale – Old Katamon, Negba st.,** 1st floor, Arab house, 4 rooms, (total about 160m), high standard of renovation, Sukkah porch, 2 full bathrooms + guest bathroom, central a/c, elevator, parking, small machsan, asking \$2,550,000

**Smadar 050-3114040 02-6424329 smadi\_walla.co.il**