

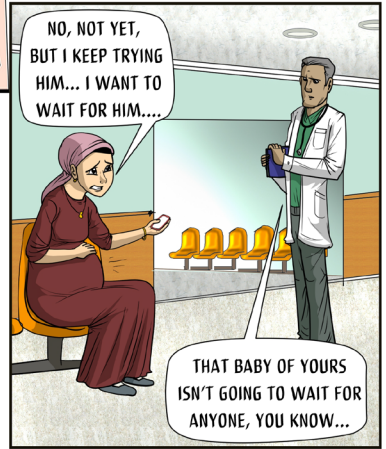
# THE Y FILES

(\*YERUSHALAYIM)

BY  
NETANEL EPSTEIN



WELL, MRS. YERUSHALMI?  
ANY WORD FROM YOUR HUSBAND?

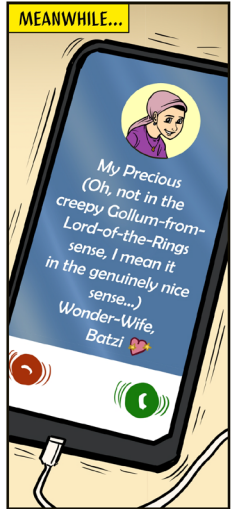


NO, NOT YET,  
BUT I KEEP TRYING  
HIM... I WANT TO  
WAIT FOR HIM....

THAT BABY OF YOURS  
ISN'T GOING TO WAIT FOR  
ANYONE, YOU KNOW...

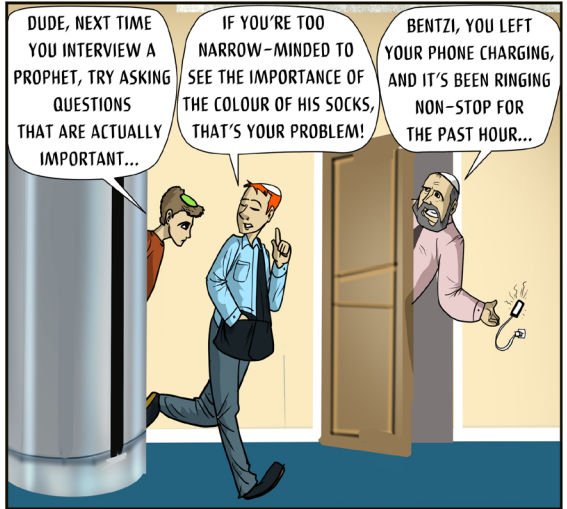


COME ON, BENTZI!  
PICK UP THE PHONE!



MEANWHILE...

*My Precious*  
(Oh, not in the creepy Gollum-from-Lord-of-the-Rings-sense, I mean it in the genuinely nice sense...)  
Wonder-Wife,  
Batzl 🍷💕



DUDE, NEXT TIME  
YOU INTERVIEW A  
PROPHET, TRY ASKING  
QUESTIONS  
THAT ARE ACTUALLY  
IMPORTANT...

IF YOU'RE TOO  
NARROW-MINDED TO  
SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF  
THE COLOUR OF HIS SOCKS,  
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!

BENTZI, YOU LEFT  
YOUR PHONE CHARGING,  
AND IT'S BEEN RINGING  
NON-STOP FOR  
THE PAST HOUR...

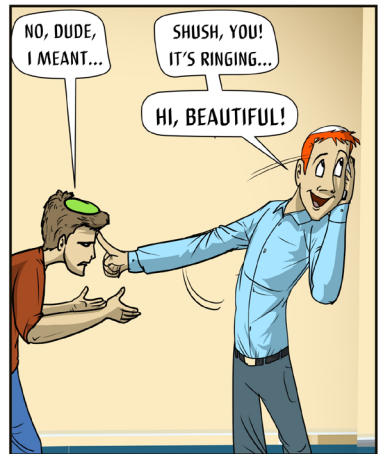


WOW, 436 MISSED CALLS.  
342 MESSAGES:  
"BEN, I'M AT THE HOSPITAL..."  
"BEN, I'M GOING INTO  
LABOUR..."  
"BENTZI, I SWEAR, IF YOU  
EVER WANT MEATBALLS FOR  
SHABBAT EVER AGAIN, YOU'D  
BETTER ANSWER THE PHONE  
RIGHT NOW!"



WHAT? YOUR  
WIFE'S HAVING  
A BABY, AND  
YOU'RE NOT...?

...SHARING WITH HER  
SOME OF OUR FANTASTICALLY  
INSPIRING WORK TO GIVE HER  
MORAL SUPPORT?  
YOU BET I AM...



NO, DUDE,  
I MEANT...

SHUSH, YOU!  
IT'S RINGING...

HI, BEAUTIFUL!

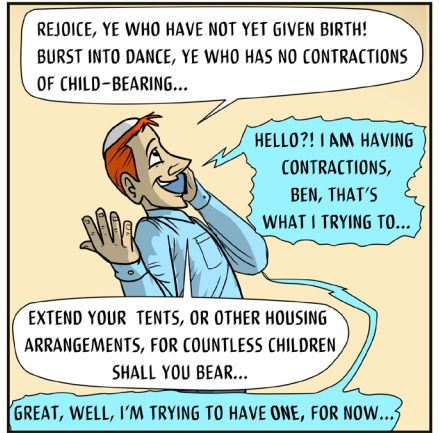


HI, BENTZ... NO, I HAVEN'T HAD THE BABY YET, I'M...



AH, BUT DESPAIR NOT! WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT YISHAYAHU JUST TOLD US...

DUDE, WILL YOU GET DOWN TO THE HOSPITAL ALREADY?!



REJOICE, YE WHO HAVE NOT YET GIVEN BIRTH! BURST INTO DANCE, YE WHO HAS NO CONTRACTIONS OF CHILD-BEARING...

HELLO?! I AM HAVING CONTRACTIONS, BEN, THAT'S WHAT I TRYING TO...

EXTEND YOUR TENTS, OR OTHER HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS, FOR COUNTLESS CHILDREN SHALL YOU BEAR...

GREAT, WELL, I'M TRYING TO HAVE ONE, FOR NOW...



BEN, EVERY OTHER WOMAN HERE HAS HER HUSBAND WITH HER, I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE ON MY OWN...

CORRECT! THAT'S THE NEXT BIT...



TOO LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LEFT ABANDONED ON YOUR OWN! BUT THAT SHAME SHALL BE LONG-FORGOTTEN, FOR YOUR HUSBAND IS THE ONE WHO MADE YOU WHO YOU ARE, AND HE HAS BEEN GONE FOR BUT A FLEETING MOMENT...

I'LL GIVE YOU "FLEETING MOMENT" ...!

HI, I'D LIKE TO ORDER A CAB PRONTO TO THE HOSPITAL...



CAB'S HERE. GET GOING!

IT'S A KIND OF A METAPHOR, Y'SEE, ABOUT HOW ISRAEL FEELS DURING THE YEARS OF EXILE, AND HOW SPEEDILY HASHEM BRINGS US BACK TO HIM, FOR A RENEWED PARTNERSHIP OF LOVE, LIKE A MARRIAGE... ALWAYS AT OUR SIDE WHEN...



WHAT AM I DOING?! MY WIFE'S HAVING A BABY! THIS... THIS IS NO TIME FOR FANTASTICALLY INSPIRING LECTURES, I... I HAVE TO BE AT HER SIDE!



WHAT KIND OF A HUSBAND AM I?! OH, THE SHAME! WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'S BEEN GOING THROUGH?!

UH... YOU?

ME?! I'VE NEVER BEEN PREGNANT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! WHAT CAN SHE POSSIBLY HAVE TO SAY TO ME, WHEN I FINALLY STAND BEFORE HER?



REJOICE, YE WHO HAS NEVER GIVEN BIRTH!