THE Y FILES
(*YERUSHALAYIM)

by Netanel Epstein

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AT OUR WEDDING...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, JUST BEFORE OUR CHATAN SMASHES THE GLASS... I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS...
MARRIAGE, MY FRIENDS...
...IS LIKE A TENNIS FINAL...
...IS A BIT LIKE A TENNIS FINAL. IT'S FUN AND GAMES, AND THE SCORE IS OFTEN "LOVE", BUT SOMETIMES YOU TRY TO HIT THE RIGHT BALL, AND YOUR RACKET SUDDENLY FLIES OUT OF YOUR HAND AND HITS OL' FISCHEL IN THE FACE...
AT HARREL'S BRIT...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HOLDING MY FIRST GRANDSON, THIS IS ONE OF THE PROUDEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE! YES, EVEN MORE THAN, WELL...
IT WAS SUMMER 1978...
IT WAS AUTUMN 1976... I HAD JUST BOUGHT MY FIRST CAR...
WHAT?
LITTLE DID I KNOW THEN THAT ONLY TWO YEARS LATER, I'D WIN THE INTER-SHUL TENNIS TROPHY...
WHY, DAD?! I MEAN, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, REALLY...
WHY MAKE SUCH A FUSS OF A SILLY LUMP OF METAL WITH A RATHER SILLY STORY TO IT?
WELL... I... I'D NEVER DREAM OF PUTTING IT LIKE THAT, BUT...
NOT TO MY FACE, BUT...
SON, WE'VE GOT TO LOOK BACK ON OUR ACHEIVEMENTS!
LOOK AT MOSHE RABBEINU, GOING ON AND ON AGAIN AND AGAIN ABOUT THE VICTORY OVER THE GIANT KINGS, SICHON AND OGG!
IT'S HIS GREATEST PEP TALK TO US BEFORE THE CHALLENGES OF ENTERING THE LAND: YOU DID IT! G-D WAS WITH YOU! SO HE'LL BE WITH YOU AGAIN, AND YOU'LL DO IT AGAIN! NEVER FEAR!
RABBI NACHMAN SAYS THAT EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST ONE SPECIAL PERSONAL PRAYER IN THEIR LIFE THAT WAS EXPLICITLY ANSWERED...
AND THAT WE MUST ALWAYS LOOK BACK AT IT, DRAW ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY MORE, AND TRY MORE, AND DREAM MORE!
LOOK AT THIS WAR WE'VE BEEN AT FOR THREE YEARS! OF COURSE WE MUST LOOK BACK AT ALL THE MIRACLES AND COLOSSAL ACHEIVEMENTS WE'VE SUCCEEDED IN! APART FROM BASIC GRATITUDE TO G-D, IT'S WHAT GIVES US THE STRENGTH FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD!
SO THIS TROPHY, SON, WAS WHAT GAVE ME THE DRIVE TO GO TO COLLEGE!
IT GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO PROPOSE TO YOUR MOTHER! IT GAVE ME THE FAITH TO MAKE ALIYA AND START MY OWN BUSINESS...!
WOW, DAD... I'M SORRY I...
SO, YES, I COULD RELATE TO IT AS A SILLY OLD LUMP OF METAL WITH A RATHER SILLY STORY TO IT, BUT WHERE WOULD THAT HAVE GOT ME?!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, DAD! SORRY I BELITTLED IT... I FINALLY UNDERSTAND NOW.
I HOPED YOU WOULD...
I DO... IN FACT I HAVE A SIMILAR SUCH ITEM...
MY "FIREMAN SAM" APRON THAT I WON AT THE INTER-SHUL FAIRY-CAKE CONTEST WHEN I WAS SIX!
I REMEMBER IT WELL, IT WAS A WET TUSEDAY AFTERNOON...
Fireman
SAM
MY GOODNESS, IS THAT THE TIME...?