



BADERECH

RABBI JUDAH MISCHEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAMP HASC
AUTHOR OF BADERECH SERIES

In It Together

Rebbe Pinchas Menachem Alter, zy'a, the Pnei Menachem of Ger (d. 1996) was widely respected as a wise and unassuming *tzadik*, and was a beloved Rosh Yeshivah of Yeshivas Sefas Emes. One year, in advance of the Yam-im Noraim, the Pnei Menachem was learning with his student and chavrusa, Reb Yitzchak Menachem Weinberg, *shlit'a*, (the current Tolna Rebbe of Jerusalem), when the latter shared the following *vort* from the Yismach Yisrael of Alexander:

"In the Musaf davening of Yom Kippur, we describe how the Kohen Gadol "rejoiced" when mixing the blood of his personal offering together with the blood offered as part of the communal sacrifice on behalf of Klal Yisrael. Until that point, the Kohen Gadol, in his exalted and singular role, was separate from the rest of the community. More than a technical, procedural aspect of the *avoda*, the mixing of the blood together united him with the rest of the *tzibur* — and this was a cause for rejoicing."

The Pnei Menachem took great pleasure in this teaching.

Soon thereafter, following the passing of his half brother, the Pnei Menachem inherited the role of Gerrar Rebbe, and accepted leadership and responsibility of the movement. As a Rebbe to thousands of *chasidim*, Reb Pinchas Menachem assumed a very public role. On the first Rosh Hashanah of his reign, he confided in his student, who by then had become the Tolna Rebbe, that the trappings of leadership and the perceived distance from the *chasidim* that came along with his new status were a challenge: "*Der vort badert mir zayer*, The vort you shared with me (regarding the mixing of sacrificial blood) is bothering me greatly."

The Pnei Menachem was experiencing the same sense of isolation that the Kohen Gadol felt prior to performing the *avodah* of mixing the different bloods of the *Korbanos*. Seeking comfort, after Yom Tov, he asked his old *chevrusa* and *talmid* to accompany him on a late night journey to *Kever Rachel*.

As they approached the Kever, Reb Pinchas Menachem was lost in thought and prayer and did not notice signage indicating that the regular entrance was closed off due to renovations. Suddenly, he was accosted by a security guard, shouting, "*Mah atah chosheiv?* What are you thinking? That you're different than others here? *Atah kemo kulam!* You're like everyone else! Go around to the other entrance around the back, like every other visitor!"

The Rebbe was taken aback, apologized for his oversight, and thanked the guard with a

**Your money made
aliyah too.**

Is it thriving?



Aaron Frolich

Certified Financial Planner &
Licensed Investment Advisor
+972.54.320.8077



GREEN PEAK
ADVISORS

Book a **FREE** 30-minute consultation!

aaron@greenpeakadvisors.com

www.greenpeakadvisors.com

smile. “Yes, it is true — *ani k'mo kulam* — I am just like everyone else,” he said, and joyfully entered Kever Rachel through the back entrance together with the rest of the *tzibur*.

Sefer Melachim describes in great detail the kindness performed by the *Isha Shunamis*, the Shunamite Woman, in hosting and providing for Elisha haNavi and his student, Gehazi. Wanting to express his appreciation, Elisha inquires if there is anything he can do for her: *Hayeish l'daber lach el haMelech?* “Can we speak on your behalf to the king?” Declining the offer, their hostess answers cryptically: *B'soch ami ani yoshevet*, “I dwell among my people.” (Melachim 2, 4:13)

The Zohar haKadosh provides context for the interaction: *Hahu yoma, Yom Tov d'Rosh Hashanah hava*, “That day was the holiday of Rosh Hashanah” (Zohar, 2:44:1). Elisha was not simply asking if the *Isha Shunamit* needed some *protektzia*, or wanted him to pull some strings with the authorities on her behalf. Being the start of a new year, Elisha haNavi was offering to intercede and daven on her behalf before Hashem, The King of Kings, who is crowned each year on Rosh Hashanah.

B'soch ami ani yoshevet, “I dwell among my people....”

The answer of the *Isha Shunamit* reveals a fundamental insight into the nature of Rosh

Hashanah, and is an important reminder for this auspicious day. Each and every one of us has the privilege and opportunity to address the *Ribbono Shel Olam*, to approach the “King” directly, and to engage Him with our own words. On Rosh Hashanah we are on level ground with all of humanity, “dwelling among our people”. We stand before God empowered by our connection to the greater *tzibur* and the community to which we belong.

This Rosh Hashanah may we strengthen our commitment to one another and awaken a deeper sense of mutual responsibility and connectivity. May we strengthen our dedication to improving the welfare of our brothers and sisters, for indeed, we are all in this together; *anachnu k'mo kulam*.

Excerpt from the newly released Baderech: Along the Path of the Torah, (Mosaica Press, Elul 5786) ■

Rav Judah Mischel is executive director of Camp HASC, the Hebrew Academy for Special Children. He is the founder of Tzama Nafshi and the author of the “Baderech” series. Rav Judah lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with his wife Ora and their family.



Alan R. Deutsch דיטש ושוות
& Assoc. CPA (US), MBA, APC CPA (ISR) דואי חשבון דראי

Over 30 Years of Trusted U.S. & Israeli Tax and Consulting Services
All Under One Roof.

- U.S. & Israeli Individual Tax Returns and Planning
- U.S. & Israeli Corporate Tax Returns and Planning
- U.S. & Israeli Trust Tax Returns and Planning
- U.S. & Israeli Bookkeeping & Accounting Services
- U.S. & Israeli Retirement and Benefits Consulting
- IRS Streamline and Israeli Amnesty Program
- IRS and Israeli Tax Authority Audit Representation
- Estate and Trust Tax Planning
- Foreign Bank Reports (FBAR)
- U.S. Child Credit

info@ardcpa.com

02-999-2104 • 09-746-0623 • 03-527-3254 • 052-274-9999

www.ardcpa.com