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ve-ha-Kohanim ve-ha-'am...

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Additional Thanks:

Kalmana Leba Start - Musical Research Aliza Rabit - Knapsack Correspondent Aminomian Man-Wants to be a Shabbai Tavi Ausical Accompaniment for the Writter provided HaRav R' Shiomo Garlebach 2002 a

e sise that been in college nearly as long. Continny to the some Roubel Yeahiya, RIETS ty in no way affiliated asi, We really, really hate Amaleq, A lot, Really, Mon

.1

# Migdal Elokim Chai

The Convention, New York—After repeated days of long conferences and inspiring refillab groups, the feminists got really angry. Cfting the intolerable abuse they receive from those (male) rabbis, the speakers directed their attention to the source of their complaints, the Holy One, Blessed Be He (sic). "The men have been misquoting Kudsha-Brikh-hu for years, and it's time to find out ourselves," one strident protester declaimed. In a stirring address, Blu Greenberg said it was time to address God (Hashem to right wing obscurantists such as the Vaad haRabbonim of Queens) directly for an authoritative pesak, "For where there's a Divine Will there's no bekhira hofshis ...or something-like that."

Once the applause died down, Blu unveiled her plan for the construction of a huge tower, aimed to reach heaven itself. The tower has been hailed by some as the perfect forum for Orthodox men and women to work together in perfect egalitarianism, and the site provides a perfect mehitzah for women's tefillah groups and separate male services (known formally as Tefillah be-tzibbur). Proposed sites for the tower included Efrat, proposed by Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, but that was voted down after Leslie Wexner pledged huge financial support if the project remained in the United States. Rabbi Riskin then suggested that the sunny island of Hawaii would be a wonderful place for the tower, but Manhattan was finally selected, albeit over strong objection from Rabbi Haskel (Hakkie to those on the right) Lookstein, who pointed out that "after all, all of Manhattan's a tower." Blu Greenberg suggested waiving some of the state seven day waiting periods for building permits, but Rabbi Saul Berman insisted that the construction of the tower must conform to God and Her will, and hence be conducted well within the bounds of halakha and American laws (much like Jewish tapes, but without songs stolen from R' Shlomo Carlebach). Mezuzot and ma'akot were hence to be installed as prescribed by the Shulhan Arukh, and all refreshments served on the site should strictly avoid chalav stam, neveilos, chametz she'avar alav ha-Pesach, and shor ha-niskal. Rabbi Shlomo Riskin suggested that to mark the sanctity of the structure, the women working on construction should dress in Yom Tov clothing, but a shortage of hamburgs and blue bekishes rendered this highly impractical. Even the blueprints themselves are said to have been designed by the Ray zt'l based on the structure of the Women's Beis Medrash of Brest-Litovsk, Lithuania, although the forepeople of the project have been cagey in showing these plans to outsiders. Scoffing, Rav Abba Bronspiegel has expressed serious doubts as to whether the Ray had any familiarity with architecture at all, or even if he had ever been inside a building. Rav Mordechai Tendler claims to have similar designs drawn up by his grandfather, the late Rav Moshe Feinstein (known to those on the right as Rav Moshe), but they disappeared with his grandfather's collection of Neshama Carlebach

Hakham Bashi Don Mitchel Serels, though unsure of how women could construct a tower from their homes, was nonetheless dismayed at the lack of Sephardic women involved in the project. However, after speaking with Shas party officials, Serels felt assured that "everything would be taken care of." In an unrelated story, Rabbi Lamm has taken an impromptu vacation to an unnamed South American country. In yet another unrelated story, the Y.C. Sephardic club has expanded its programs to include the Arye Deri Deli Kasbah Night and the Elie Souissa Meliqah Club.

The tower project, though, has met with stiff objections from leading Roshei Yeshiva.

"What do these women know about construction, or halakhic realities, building a tower without the slightest knowledge of gud usik or levud. They probably think that a structure will collapse if there are three handbreadths (tefishim—to those on the right) gaps in the walls. Fools," Posited one Rosh Yeshiva in an angry Beis Yitzchok article entitled Apekh ke Migdal ha-Shein.

"What business do women have with bricks? The gezevra shava to 'avadim can't be used to expand their role! Stick to being meyaldos— and leave the chomer u-leveynim to those who know how to handle them." Responded RIETS Rosh Yeshiva, Rosh Kollel, and neighbor of Telshe-Riverdale, Rabbi Mordechal, willig (known to those on the right as Remu). "And what do they need their own buildings for? Any woman who doesn't understand ishto ke-beisa—really scares ne." He was then horrified to learn that Deli Kasbah was negotiating to have a huge hamnikiyah/VCR (based on the design of the Rambam) placed at the top of the tower, to be lit by the TAC chessed squad. A leading opponent of women forming teflah groups, learning gemara, receiving rabbinical ordination, making

waffles, leaving the house, and dooding. Rupe: P. Willig told Hameviser that the tower was yet sneed example of feminist medifice complex."

Annoyed, Blu Greentrekhe, h.v. to tho e the right, including Ray Schachter Rabbi Dr. Sorn, Lamin [Rosh ha Weshiva u Kesnih]. Rabbi Dr. Soft D. Tendler and the Radziner Rebbe; here, re-pear that the Rabbis were merely drapying their beets cause where there's a rabbinic will daughter inheriti... or something like that."

In order to shore up rabbinical support F bis Weiss and Berman have established a foundatival train rabbinical students in both the fundamental architecture as well as to gight them toward epublianism. The group Modern Egalitarian American F binic Architects (MEARA), meets weekly at the office to the fower and hears feetures from such distance as scholars such as Dr. Haym Solovertchik, who we lecturing on "Doors and Locks among 12th 3 en German Pietists", dubious scholars such as Dr. h "Yitz" Greenberg, speaking on "Who need. W The Joint Synagogbe-Mosque-Church Buddi Monastary Construction Plan," and Rabbi Robert F on "Why does the Main Building look like a Mosga anyway?" The program is being underwritten by st.

Max Stern Division of Communal Services, who feel that the MEARA fellows will spice up Toral Tours, although some more conservative voices have raised objections to the hokhurim being carried through the ezras nashim to be kissed during hakafos. Not surprisingly, the Roshei Yeshiva have reacted to this new development with typical restraint, only stating cryptically "the forces of the fourth floor are at work here."

Ray Rosensweig has prepared a comprehensive analysis of the situation, but soon became too begged down in issues of negae't Batim. He hopes to be able to discuss MEARA some time next semester, after he does Parsha from some time last year. (Upon hearing this, Rabbi Weiss was relieved that Ray Rosensweig had declined the position of building foreman for the project, as the town is hoped to be completed prior to June (man.) Some students have taken to approaching him at home to discuss feminist issues, but his wife soon broad an end to this practice after Amichai Erdfarth was found sleeping on their couch at four in the meming.

Ray Schachter, on the other hand, was to reoutspoken in his criticism.

"One of these Rabbis was in the RIETS Sukkah building contest when I was judge, and let's just say that his canvas was all over the floor before hol he Molecule."

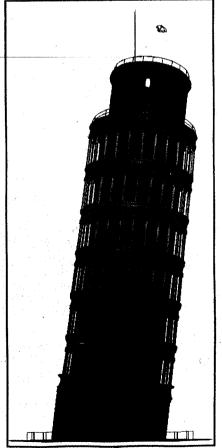
When questioned as to why someone with a staggeringly encyclopedic knowledge of Shas, Rishonim, and Acharonim couldn't find a more substantive objection to the tower program, Rav Schachter simply shrugged and responded, "I don't know. Could be."

With the added support of MEARA, the corner laying ceremony of the tower was celebrated with tremendous fanfare. The ceremony,

co-sponsored by the Israel Club, was to begin with men and women in elaborate blue and white costumes marching in with large Israeli flags. However, this was cancelled due to a fear that it may prompt an impromptu profest by AMCHA members in the audience.

The tower raising was preceded by a stirring

Continued on page 11



He prought us Tur Godenhier. He brought us The Last Dos. Now, Mario Puzo brings us

# All for the Boss

I reread Papa's letter. It's been fifteen years since I've seen Papa. I had tried to visit him for years now, ever since he moved my husband, son, two daughters, and myself, to our new home in the Southwest. I'm not sure exactly where we live, but we're protected by a huge tence, bloodthirsty dobermans, and armed guards. Papa said we'd be safe there from the enemies of the Boss, but I still, think that it would be nice to leave the property every now and then. Oh well, Papa knows best.

Memories of my childhood flashed before me.

When Papa hurried home from shul, he was greeted with a "Mazel Tor, it's a girl." Papa stared unbelievably. Are you absolutely sure? Papa was crestfallen, and when I was born, he sold me as an amah irri ah for a few years.

Papa named me Ruchoma, but soon changed it to Ruchoma-mia. He said it was for the Boss. Everything he did, in fact, was for the Boss.

When I was a young girl, I always thought my father was a shohet. Every morning, he went off to the Mikveh, with his Taillis and Tefillin under one arm, and a gleaming knife in the other. Puzzlingly, though, Papa would only refer to his occupation as "a soldier of the Boss," I didn't realize what that meant until I was seven, when I first saw Papa use his knife on one of our neighbors, who had been smoking outside on Shubbos, I immediately Jurst into tears.

Papa took me onto his lap and said, "Ruchama, do not cry, It was what the Boss wanted."

Many people suffer throughout their lives, Papa would tell me. Some of them need money, others protection, others love. They all turn to the Boss, and he always answers their pleas. If you have a dispute with your neighbors, he will politicly speak to them, and make them an offer they can't fefuse. In the end, everyone is happy. In fact, they're so overcome with gratitude towards the Boss that they always feel obligated to return the favor.

I once visited one of Papa's gentile associates, a gentile fellow named Louie the Barber. Louie handed me a beautiful doll. I was so happ, but fearful that Papa would not let me keep it.

When a arrived home, Papa asked me, "Ruchoma, where did you get that from?"

1 stuttered, "F-F-F-From Louie, Papa." Papa frowned, "Ruchama-mia, the Torah prohibits us from having idols."

He took the doll and smashed its head against the floor. As I cried, Papa pulled a small bag of white powder from out of its head and slipped it in his pocket.

He looked at me sternly and said, "Ruchama, we must always follow the bidding of the Boss."

Another time, I bought myself a doll and hid it from Papa. "Ruchoma-mia, give me yourdoll," Papa said firmly. "You must obey the Torah. No idols imallewish home." But I would not yield, and I hid my doll in a shee box undermeath the bed.

The next morning, I awoke to find the doll's decapitated head next to me on the pillow. I never bought a doll again.

One winter day, when I was six years old, I

became sick, and developed a deep rash. The doctor told Mama that I had scarlet fever. The red blotches itiehed terribly. Mama watched over me with deep concern to prevent me from scratching myself. Papa took over my care at nights, so Mama could jest. "Make sure that Ruchoma-mia does not scratch her face. It could leave marks," Mama warned Papa.

Papa had my hands chained to the wall, so I could not scratch myself. It was only years later that I appreciated how wise Papa had been.

Papa always made sure that we were safe and healthy. One day, I got into a fight with Shira, one of my classmates. Papa saw my black eye. I was crying. Papa said, "Don't worry, Daven hard and the Boss will protect you." And he was right. Shira never bothered me again. In fact, I davened so well that Shira's family moved to Baltimore a week later.

Papa's method of punishment was unique. When I misbehaved, he escorted me into the bedroom, took off his leather belt, and brought it down heavily on the bedpost. Then, someone brought in a small child, and Papa would strike him hard, repeatedly. I screamed each time really loud. This way, Papa never hit me once, but I still feared him.

Papa was very strict with us. He never allowed us to read any books from the local library, and he diescouraged us from attending the local movie the ater. But I loved reading, and I would sneak books out of the library. I would also take Mama with me to the movies. When Papa found out, he was furious.

The next day, the library and theater closed. Papa smiled: "The Boss always helps me, he said."



Papa loved performing mitzros, and especially enjoyed encouraging others to do the same. One morning, I went to visit Papa in his study, and a man was walking out hiding something under his shirt. I asked Papa what this man was doing. With a big smile on his face, Papa explained that the man was carrying his lulay with him everywhere he went, just like they did in Yerushadaim. I was very happy with this answer, I told him, except for the fact that it was the middle of the summer. "Ruchoniamia," said Papa in an angry voice, "I don't like you questioning the Boss. It's those 'goyish' books that cause this insolent behavior. Your school should not permit you to read any books!"

And once again, the Boss answered his prayers. The next day, P.S. 42 announced its new policy. No more books. I.was very upset, and it wasn't until years later, when I entered college, that I realized how wise Papa had been.

Papa was very concerned about tzniyus. One day, he was informed that at the beach, men and women would swim together. Papa had someone walk back and forth on the beach wearing a sign, which read: It's against Jewish law for men and women to swim together. The Boss is very upset about this.

Papa's sign was so convincing that even the non-Jews stopped attending the beach until they enforced separate swimming hours for men and women.

Papa was very active in providing Jews with reliable Pesach products. We had a shemura mattah bakery. Papa supervised the milking of cholov yisroel milk, and starting in the 1920's, we also started to make our own wine. However, for kabbalistic reasons, Papa was very makpid not to let a gentile see the wine, and so when one of the neighborhood policemen was in our house, Papa would not only seal the wine in opaque bottles, but would even keep it sealed in a special room in the basement.

One day, Mama found a strange looking *pupik* in one of the chickens. She asked Papa to go to the Rav, and ask a *shaylah*. "But make sure to tell him that there were 24 chickens, and only one questionable *pupik*," screamed Mama.

I went with Papa to the Rav. "Please examine this pupik." The Rav looked for a while, and finally paskened that it was treif. "That's it," exclaimed Papa, "I'm throwing out all 24 chickens."

"But," said the Rav, "in a case of hefseid merubah, I can be more meikel."

"Nope," said Papa, "I don't look for kulos".

On the way home, I asked Papa, "But what will we eat on Shabbos? What about all the orchim?" But Papa was obstinate. "We have to follow the Torah, and if we do, then I'm sure the Boss will help us

 Sure enough, right before Shabbos, a truckload of fresh chickens, all cooked just hours earlier, came by our house. They had many extra chickens, and they gave it to Papa as a gift. They even kissed his hand.

The orchim were a very important part of our lives. Our home was always open, even to non-Jews. In fact, many Italians are a Papa's table along with various Meshluachim, Roshei Yeshivos, and schnorrers. The Italians developed a real love for

Yahadus, specifically Mama's kugel; in fact, they would often even sleep in Papa's private Beis Medrash in the basement, the one behind the false wall.

The special atmosphere the orchim created was a backdrop to my entire youth. There was Reb Barukh Ber Leibowitz, who taught me the significance of Talmud Torah, Mordekhai "the Gartel" Abramowitz, who showed nie how to make the berakha "ha-Tov ve-ha-Meitiv" with hislahavas, and Vinnie "the 'Attrah" Cappucino, who taught me how to be yerei Hashem be-Seser u-ve-Galui, but especially be-seser when he was hiding out in our basement.

l once asked Mordekhai why he was called the Gairel. He explained that as a Yeshiva bokhur, he would use his gartel to hang a dummiy of Haman from the roof on Purim. Strangely, he seemed to start trying out his noose on local cops in Tammuz.

One Purim, I wanted to play at my friend Beila's house, but Papa knew it was more important that I learn about the *ahavas reyin* that is such an integral part of Purim. He took me to the vat of grapes in our basement and took off my shoes. "The *Orchim* are thirsty, Ruchama," he said, "Get busy."

Papa was very concerned about the welfare of others. He loved all Jews, He loved all people. In fact, he spent hours every day helping out the sanitation workers. I once heard him say that he was afraid some other business would come and take over. Obviously, Papa was worried that some of the workers would lose their jobs.

On my sister's wedding invitations, Papa added the then-unheard of phrase, "Ladies, please come dresssed according to Jewish Law."

Papa stood at the door with a bushel of sweaters for female guests attired immodestly. When Aunt Rifka refues to cover her sleeveless arms, though, Papa neatly chopped off her arms with his sharp knife. While this caused an uproar among the guests, Papa smiled, "The Boss wants women to dress modestly," and wiped the blood off his knife.

Although it took weeks of scrubbing before Mama could get the blood out of my new dress, there is no doubt that Papa did the right thing.

Sukkos was always a wonderful yom tov in our house. Papa spent a lot of time selling his mehudar lulavim and esrogim. He also used the opportunity to sell his special besamin, but he was makpid not be

over on bal tosif. Therefore, he had us grind the green leaves into a fine powder and wrap them in rolling paper.

When I was 15, I worked at Reb Michel's pawn slop. One evening, as I was leaving work, a young gehtleman asked me cordially if he could escort nie to the subway station. I nodded in the affirmative. It was gratifying to have a young man, rather than one of our more elderly orchim, pay special attention to me. We walked several blocks when I saw Papa walking towards us.

"Ruchama, who is this young man?" Papa's tone showed his rage as did his instinctive move to his shoulder holster.

At this the man seemed slightly flustered and began to run.

I screamed as Papa shot him in the leg. Papa turned to me and said said, "Ruchama-mia, you know this is no way for a yiddishe tochter to act."

Although I didn't realize it at the time and watched the young man screaming in agony. Papa was clearly right. It is only a shame that Papa had to waste so many bullets before I realized that.

One late evening soon after, Papa had a serious talk with me.

"Ruchama, you are 15 years old. It is time to get married."

"Papa, I don't feel that I'm ready for marriage. I have to wait at least another few months until I'm sixteen."

Papa took me onto his lap, pinched my cheeks roughly and told me I was engaged to Mickey the Litvak, a loyal servant of the Boss, and we would soon be moving to the Yeshiva Gedolah in Sicily so that he could deepen his Torah studies.

As Mickey was missing three fingers, I was deeply saddened by this. It was only after he was mysteriously found floating in the Canal Street Mikveh that I realized what a special chosson Papa had chosen for me.

I remember the years in Sicily as some of the most inspiring in my life. Mickey would go off to the Beis Medrash every morning with his Gemara, and while I awaited for him to come home I learned to make wonderful tomato basil pasta kreplach, which Mickey would hungrily wolf down while I cleaned his gun, and then he'd grab his ski mask and run back for night seder.

One Shabbos shortly after we were married, Mickey invited a young bokhur, Lucky Arych, to join us for our Suedah. Unfortuantely, I had forgotten to put any water in the Cholent that week, and it turned into a charred black mess. Arych started laughing, and I fled the table in tears. Needless to say, Mickey never brought Arych home again. Come to think of it, I don't think I ever saw him again.

While Papa always spoke of his love for Eretz Yisroel, he shocked all of us one day in 1949 when he told us that he and Mama would be leaving for Yerushalayim immediately. "With all of the Yidda now in Eretz ha Koydesh," Papa explained, "The Boss needs someone there to organize them."

After high school, I had wanted very much to go to college. Papa would not hear of it.

When I was a mature woman, I needed to take certain courses in order to obtain a teacher's license. I registered for an ethics course.

The first session dealt with the immorality of killing.

This was against what I had learned all my life from Papa.

My hand flew into the air.

"The Ten Communication of all streams, which means "for film, you and "The students snickered, and the classers and versation."

Tithen knew how wise Papa and book venting me from attending coffege.

People don't seem to fear the Boss as these days. Assimilation, television, the FBL as costs of cement, and gun control have taken the reon our time honored faith in The Boss. But Paparae us well, and me and my family live by the Boss, and after meah ve-esrim shana, will find the true bliss of Misah al yedei Neshikah.

#### Cloning - Continued from pg. 11

Realizing the great potential for conspiracy theories connected to the existence of multiple Ravs, Oliver Stone it daveloping a movie around the story. In keeping with the tradition established in his 'Nixon' of casting actors looking nothing file the original figures portrayed, the Rav is to be played by the Lonely Man of Faith.

Meanwhile, now that YU's cloning abilities has come to light, the student body has began discussing its various ramifications and applications. In what was thought to be å brilliant move, SOY leaders announced that they were willing to fund the cloning of the gabbaei beis medrash tabelp complete the 7:45 beis medrash shackaris minyan. This idea, however, was immediately posed by the gabbaim, who argued that no cloning the gabbaei beis medrash was also of cloning the gabbaei beis medrash was strongly opposed by the rest of the student body.

So, if you're walking one late finalevening down shadowy Amsterdam blocks, and you, think you see the silhouette of a bearded man with an accented voice carrying a large amount of sefarim, you may have encountered one of the many Ray clones in the world. Or, of course, it could have been one of the Breslover mishulachim, lurking in the shadows.

### **Personals**

We are proud to offer this new service, which will allow our many readers to advertise for shidduchim. Good Luck!

Los Pragames Than My Parents: Idealistic Real (in Esy, now learning in Baltimore looks for quality Confused Michaels girl now in Breuer's semi-

Comments of Transfer and Park seeks at humans of the Williams of the Comments of the Comments

A. L. P. Libera. ... YU grad who worked for the No. 1 school. Camp Sinche. Torah Tours, II Silveseka Stern giri who also gave up on the continue that way.

1. Still Not Exceed, and Sharting to Get Panicky Chitgoring, pretry Stern College senior, 5'4", who's going for O.T. and silvays smiles and laughes: a boys' jokes is looking for YU or Queen's College gay who's pre-Med or pre-Law or pre-Accounting or pre-Semicha or anything.

# 613 Torah Avenue — Vol 2540

Um back from 2 years, in Yorushalayim There Lieamed Torah, Day and Night And learned how to tell, wrong from right And now, after a summer stay at Torah Avenue I'm off for new adventures, at a place called YU My R. Sheen warned me, not everything there is frum some of the professors are downight knum! But 199 be real careful, my nevirone they won't get After all I did stay for shana bet-

Flearned that davening in Yeshiya is a big invan. but in Israel we never had to wait to get a minyan Overer. I just lett to get a coffee at the store. and now there are no years left on the Beis Medrash floor. I'll learn in the library, run by big spenders; Computers and stereos but what about shienders They say that upstairs is where they have seforim: I feel myself in need of a Mexilas Yesharim. Wow! There are sets of Gemara. Rambam and Tur. could it be a Beis Medrash, on the fifth floor!? Those people are learning, they must think it's a beis; but there are girls and English books all over the place! Boys and girls study, it seems like for pleasure; haven't they seen Igros Moshe, Siman Samekh, Even HaEzer! That man with a chumash must be doing shnavim mikra; but he tells me he's writing a paper on the source of Vayiqra! "Hello Chayim" chirps out that sheaf of dog-eared paper Can you enlighten me, to these kefira-dig capers? Mr. Notes, you seem filled with much that's not pure, Why are "Intro to Bible" notes not strictly assur? "My name is Mesorah, soon you'll know me well," I don't want to! I'm too scared of hell! "Chayim, sit down, just hear my sweet tune nd you'll be studying kefira with the best of them soon!"

#### The Intro Song

(to the tune of "Its time to learn Torah") Its time to teach Torah today, Lets look at Chumash, What does it say Now please follow my directions. By dividing Bible into sections: Look for Havayah and Shem Elokin Know what was written by the Kohanim Study what the choikrim wrote, The Rishonim just missed the boat

Its time for lunch, lets try the caf,

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#### Click on any of the following menu items...

- \* To listen to a clip of Be-shilton ha-koyfrim (Requires Real Audio)
- \* To throw a virtual stone at cars (requires MPEG)
- \* Aveydas Teyman The REAL STORY of acheyni Brai visruel from Yemen
- Yossele Interactive video game, where YOU save the Shumacher kid from shmad at the hands of the Tzivoinim, Y'sh

#### Links to Zionist organizations:

- www.aguda.com
- www.helz.com
- www.toldosavromvitzchok.com

"That's Ray Carmy", they say, making a racket He is a rabbi? Where is his jacket? Hello, Professor, my name is Chayim Do you believe in Forah min ha shamavini This Rubbi Carmy speaks of many strange things its like reading a chapter of The Juggler and the King. "Listen up Chavim, I tell you, you ought'er!" Oh hello there, Mr Tall Blue Glass of Ice Water "You'll learn so much from this lunch before very long, Eat your scallops and yogurt, while I sing Rav Carmy's song!

#### The Carmy Chorus

(to the Carlebach Dovid Melekh Yisrael) Truman, Gout, and Hay Fever, Kierkegaard, and Jewish Believers, Baseball, Yitziblau and Golden Retrievers Welcome to R' Shalom's Magical World

> With lots of Monty Python. And the Rambam and Ramban, Its varied like a maze You'll be left in a Daze In Rebbe's Magic World.

Sit down with Rebbe, at his Table Accept the Carmy Chossid Label, Stay for as long as you are able Lunching in Rebbe's Magic World Stories from Reh Yoshe Ber Irish Drinking Songs and the history of chairs, Tales of Oliver Sacks, Weird Books culled from the Stacks In Rebbe's Magic World

I don't know, This stuff just isn't right It's not what in Israel they call frumkeit. I want to be a good Jew, to take my neshama higher maybe you can help me out, Mr. Huge Fiery Pyre "Hi, Chayim, I am Molekh, and soon I'll let pass a new great golem, made of dirt and grass. Taught by a mystic, versed in ways of magic hopefully this trick will get us all ecstatic. "Isn't this assur? It's like worshipping the Ba'al!" "Why no, my boy, it's from the Maharal to Ramchal!" "This seems like a hefty Issur, the Torah tells us them to kill? "But we have a hetter from our Posek, Rabbi Alan Brill," Rabbi Brill. I dont want to seem weird

But shouldn't a Mekuhal have a heard' Can I really learn Kabbalah before I'm forty I think that I'd rather take Ivov with Mordy Everything in this place is against our mesorah Next thing you'll tell me, is to marry a Sefer Torah.

#### The Nistar Ditty

(to the niggun the goyyim call "Oh Susannah") Verse:

Nigleh is very nice but it doesn't fit the bill, We've been Modern far too long says Rabbi Alan Brill. So throw away your Hirsch and go back to the source, With the proper Sheimos you can ascend to use the

So learn Kabbalah, its secrets are so great, From the Rambam to the Vilna Gaon, Jews did meditate

Chassidus is so very deep, it cuts you like a knife, You can be so exalted, if you find the Besht's old pipe. But even the Litvaks knew the Secret Shining Path Only Yekkes and Neo-Briskers incur the Mystic's wrath.

So learn Kabbalah, its secrets are so great Leave all your preconceptions at the Revel building

# The Making of a Gabbai

I need to relax before Seder - I know, I'll see the play But what is this? From monkeys we come? Doesn't the mashgiach care what plays are done? Hi there Mr. Monkey, maybe you can enlighten me' Who's behind this hideousness, which certainly frightens me? "Come meet Dr. Beukas, he's quite a traddik, at least this play isnt crotic This is awful, Mr. Monkey, though your fur is brown. "We also have our own Roy, in real laboratory gown, He knows Biology cold, and's a real Torah mentor Just don't tell him you learn by R' Herschel Schechter. He stands there speaking, of Tuna and Tekheles and Cloning, From him, I'll learn if the actors are chayav stoning. Isn't Evolution kefira! Don't the gedolim forbid it! "Don't you know who my shver was, you bumbling idiot? Reb Moshe mattired it, I have an outright statement, I'll find whenever I clean up my basement And what do they know, these self-proclaimed Gedoylim, They can't tell the difference between Meysim and Choylim!

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children of all ages!

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baritone that makes his students cry

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(to the tune the goyyim call Head and Shoulders) Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes Eyes and ears and mouth and nose But still, but still, they're all brain dead

Oy Vey! Where is my mace! The Van stop is swarming, with hideous nush, who quote unquote bokhurim are trying to touch. I can't bear to watch this, it mamash breaks my heart! This is worse than the filth which they show us in art. Mr. Van. Mr. Van. What's going on? Why hasnt anyone told this to Rabbi Kahn "Oh Chayim, you have to learn, Where better to find a shiddukh than on the van to Stern' For NCSY. hetter kiruv is great, but hetter kiruv bassar will find vou a mate Listen to my song, and soon it will be clear, that visible affection is the way some do things here

Its time for night Seder, back to the Bais,

## Mazal Tov to...

Eliyohu "Shluffy" Juni on becoming a chosson Yonina Caplan on helping

> Gedalyah Berger and Miriam Davis on their recent marriage L'Cha'am! L'Cha'am!

Fritz de St. Moritz and Deborah Walder on their recent engagement

Tzeiskhem le-Shalom to our longtime coorespondent R' Eli Clark on ending a decade of service to Purim Hamevaser and moving on to the RJJ Journal and le-havdil some other magazines r'l

#### Negivah

(to the tune of Moshiach, Moshiach, Moshiach (sic))

"Thursday Night, Going to Stern, To see your Girlfriend again. Give her a kiss, hug her goodbye, You think God really cares?

Negiyah, Negiyah, Negiyah [Oyoyoyoyoy] Negiyah, Negiyah, Negiyah [Oyoyoyoyoy] Although it is befreyrush assur, It goes on at the Van Stop Every week again and again And Again And again and again and again...

#### Verse:

Holding hands, at the van stop, That's dating for me and you. Fooling around's, Halakhically sound, If you're a Modern Orthodox Jew...

#### Chorus:

My rebbeim were right, YU is chazir-treif I miss Eretz Yisroel, where my mind was so safe! My yeshiva had no art, no vans and no nush, to compete with my brain turning into mush. I'll get out of here quickly, without making a stink, As long as I don't chas ve-shalom have to think. In the meantime I'll stay here, all bitter and spiteful. At least the Beis Medrash minyan is so very delightful.

#### HAMEVASEI

I saw a girl walking the other day with her soon to be mate. There was a bounce in her walk, a smile on her lips, a joy in her voice and an impalance in her step I could tell that she thought that life was just perfect. After all, she was full of exelliment, painting, a special feeling of deep relationship, and seven bottles of cheap Carmel wine. It was at this moment that he turned to he and offered to share his life with her forever. She was hesitant at first, since he was a little overweight, about twenty three years older, and already had a wife. But after thinking as best as she could under the circumstances, she finally

Dear Pilegesh

I wanted to walk over to her right then and share my thoughts with her. "You are truly fortunate," I would say, "You will be starting your bayis ne'eman on a truly positive note. Hashem has sent you a beautiful ba'al, considering, and he will provide you with the opportunity to reach the highest levels of 'Avodas Hashem, and will provide you a lovely home and more cable TV than you can imagine. But before I could say anything, she had passed out on the park bench, her eyes bloodshot, her clothes covered with vomit. I knew that when she would awake on this bench, she would feel disgusting and embarassed, but imagine her joy when someone told her what holy relationship she had just committed to!

I decided to write a book collecting thoughts and recommendations that I can share with all pilagshim. They are from my many interactions with loving husbands, faithful pilagshim, jealous wives, scarred children, and neglected goldfish who I have advised and sometimes, institutionalized. I have taken the time to go through Torah sources on the topic of shalom bayis with a pilegesh. I haven't found much, but it's all tiflus to me, anyhow.

#### **♦**Commitment

You are at the very beginning of a wonderful relationship. Until now, your neshama has been incomplete, but soon you will acquire a new wardrobe. Remember, you can help make his marriage much more meaningful.

Message 1: Marriage is destined from Heaven, and it combines genuine love with deep religious worship. Also, man is a depraved animal, and I'm here to help him with that, bli 'ayin ha-ra' ...



#### **♦**Creating an Işland

Right after the laylah rishona, you will be given an island. Sometimes, the ba'al will force you to go there; other times, he will ask you politely. But a good pilegesh must know when it's time to go, without being told any-

Devorah looks forward to shopping with her ba'al, enabling her to both spend quality time and his money with him, and also leave the house. But he is very busy drinking beer. Devorah should take time to consider how uncomfortable her ba'al will be with her narrow, selforiented plan. Then she should return to the island.

Message 2: Learn a hobby for your spare time.

#### **♦**Expectations

Many pilagshim enter their sacred union with absurd expectations, and it places an unfair burden on the ba'al, who is always very attentive to all needs of his

Yehudis has been Moshe's pilegesh for over a month, and assumes that only she can provide that extra happiness for shalom bayis. One day, she notices that Moshe is interviewing some younger women to be his second pilegesh. Yehudis runs into the room, and yells at Moshe for ignoring her.

Yehudis made two mistakes here. First of all, she initiated conversation with her ba'al, and didn't even bring him food! But in addition, she romantically envisioned herself as his one true supplemental love. Besides the fact that she is making up her own rules (it's no coincidence that we don't write a kesubah for a pilegesh), she arrogantly dismisses the idea that perhaps she has not been sufficiently loyal to his wishes.

Message 3: Stop reading those ultrafeminist books which are putting these crazy ideas in your head, like Tzena

### **♦Be Creative**

Many people have conveniently misinterpreted this. Obviously, all creativity must be directed toward the ba'al's best

Bracha enjoys eating supper with her ha'al, but sometimes is unsure whether or not he wnats to eat with her. So, with the ba'al's permission, she crafts a golden scepter, which she gives him as a gift. From then on, when she comes to the dinner table, if he puts out the scepter, she knows she can stay. Otherwise, she returns to the island.

Message 4: Am I using my knowledge of Tanakh for the right purposes?

## ◆Every Ba'al is unique-avoid com-

Tzvi always refers to Shani as Shifcha. "Shifcha," he says, "tie my shoes," or, "Shifcha, go put on tefillin." Shani is very upset, and one day blurts out: "Why can't you be like Dina's ba'al? He calls her amah."

The following message should be repeated whenever one starts making mental comparisons:

Message 5: I should just be lucky that my ba'al doesn't sell me to a menuval or mukeh shkhin.

#### $\Phi$ 1+1=1

The ultimate goal of this hallowed institution is to form a unit, to break the pattern of rugged individualism, to realize that we have to identify ourselves with someone else. It requires training to think this way, but the goal is to adapt and always keep in mind the following formula:

#### 1(me) + 1(he) = 1(he)

There are two major problems that make this equation difficult to work out as it should. The *pilegesh* enters the union with a different background and personality than her ba'al. This is compounded by the fact that he is always trying to hide her from family, friends, and the IRS. It's very hard to identify oneself with such a ba'at, but it gets you nice jewelry and Nintendo.

Message 6: If not for the ba'al, the only companionship you'd find is a women's tefillah group.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **♦**Love and affection

Forget it.

#### **◆**A recommendation

There is a simple technique that can help make it easier to respect and appreciate your ba'al. Upon waking up in the morning, you should say, "Thank you, Hashem, for sending me such a wonder-



ful ba'al." If a pilegesh feels gratitude toward Hashem for sending her the right ba'al, then she focuses on the ba'al's good qualities and ignores his overwhelming sum of bad ones. Also, she should ignore the fact that Hashem disapproves of this union. However, if the latter problem gnaws at her, she should remember the Rambam's pesak. that anyone who has a pilegesh has a din melekh. (How to master such creative readings of the Rambam and other halakhic texts is presently being taught in Englewood.) Then, she will feel comfortable religiously and relate to the ba'al appropriately.

Message 7: My ba'al is a melekh.

#### ♦Self esteem

If this was an issue for either party, then the whole thing couldn't happen. Nevertheless, being a pilegesh gives a Jewish woman a special feeling of selfworth that Jewish wives never have. The pilegesh can light her own Chanuka

Message 8: I'm an important person. I live in Boro Park.

#### ◆Maintaining your island

The island fineld always be kept tidy and all furniture and ammenter. Jould partie too. costly. Clean up once a week and don't make too namy long distance phone calls. You can invite your friends, as long as they meet the baral's approval Sometimes, your ha al will bring some new, strange women to the island, and tell you. "These are your new friends from now on." Don't let this upset you: you probably don't have too many friends, anyway

Message 9; Your island isn't your right, it's a privelege.

#### ◆Relationship with the Tzara

The Tzara, or as she will call herself, the 'Akeres ha-Bayis, 1 may be a little unfriendly, and might do a few unkind things to you. For instance, she might force you to do extra laundry or she might swing an axe at you. A thoughtful pilegesh will stop and think, and she'll realize that it's nothing personal. Remember, your existence emphasizes how lousy her marriage is. And there's no chapter in Dear Kallah on how to deal with a pilegesh!

The best idea is to avoid eve

Message 10: Buy an axe of your own (with the ba'al's permission, of course).

#### ◆A message to pilagshim

I once gave a class for pilagshim on the topic of shalom bayis. I asked the women there to think of ten positive qualities their ba'al possessed. I expected them to be nervous, and to ponder for a long time. But they immediately began throwing around all sorts of descriptions, "Powerful," "Dominating," "Imposing," "Always in Control," "People fear him," "Drinks more beer than a camel drinks water," and other impressive superlatives. I realized that all of them had healthy

relationships, and I dismissed the class.

Continued on page 10

### HAMEVASER

Continued from page 9

Message 11: Some people are better off being pilagshim.

**◆**Conclusion

Remember, the union of *pilegesh* and *ba'al* is an intimate, fulfilling, meaningful, inspiring, and enriching experience for someone like you. Yes, it's full of rough times, shaky moments, tumultous incidents, spats, condescension, subser-

vience, locking in closets, swallowing goldfish, etc. But on the other hand, you can make great strides in your religious development. You see, your tefillos will improve like you never imagined. Every day you will pray for Divine revelation and mystical, otherwordly experiences. The leap of faith will take on new meaning for you. And when your ba'al sends to you to the other room when guests come over, and tells them that he's just playing dreidel,

you'll realize all too well that ein ka-Hashem elokeinu.

It's a difficult road ahead, but the rewards are incomparable. After years of counseling and serious medication, you will learn to appreciate your enviable lot. If you keep the proper goals in mind, you can build a bayis ne'eman and have tremendous nachas from all your children, at least until the ba'al sells them for new window shades.

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# Soloveitchik Park:

### Adventures in Cloning

After news of the cloning of Dolly the sheep shocked the world, YU leaders began to ponder the ramifications. Renowned scientist Rabbi Dr. Moses D Tendler commented, "I'don't see what the big deal is. A lot of people around here have the brain matter of sheep, and each one is as big an idiot as the next." Other scientists immediately announced that the procedure had already been performed years ago on pri mates. Now, the science faculty of Yeshiva University has announced that, decades before, they dared to experiment with one of the more complex species known to mankind; they successfully cloned a Soloveitchik. "The idea was that more than one Ray was needed," explained Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, a renowned scientist and inventor of the famed "rocket bullet." "Combining my skills in chemistry, that of Rabbi Moses Tendler in Biology, and that of Dr. Alan Brill in Alchemy, we proceeded to produce a man for all seasons, a Ray for every spot on the political spectrum. While we were able as well to genetically engineer every clone to our preference, we resisted the temptation, although my talmid Jeffrey did beg us to mix the natural Soloveitchik athleticism with the brains of Red Sarachek to make a seven-foot Soloveitchik center."

The result, of course, was thousands of Rav clones, each with a different personality, outlook, and hashkafa. While the clones were virtually genetically identical, the particular identity of each Rav could be told by the makeup of his beard, be it black, white, full, or goateeish. In one scientific slip-up, assisting

pathologist Rabbi. Shaloh Carmy accidentally added a beard-eating virus to the mixture, resulting in a clone. Tooking nothing like the original: 'This clone, however, turned out to be extremely photogenic, and was therefore later pictured on the cover of 'Lonely Man of Faith.'

Historians have culled together the large amounts of evidence and subjected them to rigorous scrutiny. The main objective: identify which Ray matched which clone, and thus resolve the apparent inconsistencies in his personality and activities. They began their research with the Ray's' various talmidim, who were, as always, eager to assist in accurate documentation of the Ray's life.

"Come to think of it, there did seem to be more than Ray around...! Affilk..." said Rabbi Avi Weiss, "I seem to recall that one day the Ray came in to shiur...!" in pretty sure it was the Ray.....anyhow, he came in wearing a red tie, then went out to get a Rambam and came in wearing a black tie! It was a clone! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE, AND WE CAN'T STOP THEM! JEWISH BLOOD IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK! NEVER AGAIN!"

Ray Hershel Schachter heartily concurred with his colleague Rabbi Weiss. "You can read all about it in my new forthcoming encyclopedic magnum opus, to be published in this year's Beit Yitzchak." he said. "I call it 'Nefashos HaRay: tzeu lachem beikvei hatzon.' In it I recount thousands of machlokesim between the various Ray's, and it shows from here how

all these securingly bizarie stories being reality forolifrom Stina. From Mochie Pabbenia to Tehechine from the Rosh to the Tiri, from the general Sezes for the Chaution Mammon to the Minchos Panchas to the Grinker Ray. This is the Ray's nebesh, the resolution Min Hashamayin! Soft that any of you should do any of this still."

The scientists' account of the cloning story was prected excitedly by Ayrola leader Rabbi Moses. Sherer. "This proves what we have maintained all along, that the gedoffun never came into contact with that Rosh Yeshiya of Yeshiya University. That picture of Rabbi Solovechik with Reb Mosley and R. 'Alron Kotler-that wasn't him at all, but his frommer better younger clone! And it was R.' Alron's evil clone that gave the shiri in YU. And it was the Torah Temma's evil clone that wrote that hideous book. And it was migest clone that...im, never mind."

In contrast to these cheerful endorsements of the scientific story, the idea of Ray clones met with strong opposition from Rabbi Moses. Tendler, who delivered a scathing attack on the scientists. In an interview with TIME magazine, he automiced that he opposed the entire concept "on biblical grounds," When pressed to clarify what that meant, he explained, "meaning I don't like it."

The tale has fascinated Hollywood as well

Continued on page 5

#### Migdal - Continued from page 3

speech by R' Meir Goldvicht, who regaled the audience with his bold words and various insights from R' Shleimeh Zalman zt'l. When one person in the audience nudged his neighbor and pointed out that R' Meir seemed to be speaking against the raising of the tower, he responded, "yes, but he speaks such a beautiful Hebrew and wears such a beautiful srugie."

Meanwhile, just as the tower raising was about to begin, Jeffrey Socol came on the scene flanked by his Daihatsu riding commandos. He had to inform the crowd that the entire tower building enterprise would have to be moved to Schottenstein Hall. When he was informed that the tower could not possibly be built inside of an existing building, he responded by loading the tower building materials onto a Dahaitsu and driving them to Schottenstein.

As many in the crowd, including President Lamm, began to protest, the elder Socol reminded everyone that it was probably best not to upset Jeffrey if they didn't want any rabbinical school's budgets getting misplaced. In the end, it was probably best that this project never got off the ground as all the groups working on it turned out to be speaking different languages.

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Can't remember that last Racht's
No time to study for the M-BAT C

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#### The Women:

The shul is packed with people who have

come to pray,
But unfortunately women cannot stay

Oh they insist,

those chauvinists,

on running the minyan

Well no more

Hear us roar

The noise of the Queens Vaad just won't die down Fueling that convention going on uptown,

Try to Repress,

Just cause more stress,

For those poor nushim,

Well no more,

hear them roar

#### Chorus:

We need you,

we need

women's

tefillah,

each and every

girl can have bat-mitzvah

#### Vaad:

don't be frum, just cave in,

so Mike

Steinhart can be your friend

#### Vaad:

How can anybody justify,

who knows what else they're apt to try?

-Saying Borchu, -

Kedusha too,

Is Befeyrush assur,

Have you no shame? this is no game?

#### Women:

But think how it could be if all of those men

could find a way for women to relate to Hashem.

With Frum Gemara,

We'd leave Drisha,

No more krumkeit,

Such a cry, can you deny?

Chorus: We need you....

#### Stern Hanhalah:

It's only based on

hashkafa, To say it's assur for

women to read the

megillah, It's muttar altz the

halokhoh,

But let's pretend that it's

not

Chorus: We need you...



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