



GROWTH

At The

SHABBAT TABLE

PARSHAT TAZRIA- METZORA

Potent Prayer

R' Avraham Walkin once shared the following story, highlighting the immense power of prayer.

There was a couple living in Bnei Brak whose 8-year-old son started having terrible migraines. Day after day, the headaches would return. After some time, the family realized that this was extremely irregular and they consulted with several physicians. The doctors told them that this amount of migraines in such a short period of time was concerning, and recommended sending the boy for testing. After sending the boy for scans and performing some tests, the doctor walked into the boy's hospital room and called the parents outside. He sadly informed them that their son had a brain tumor, and that they were going to need to prepare their son for the trauma he would have to endure. He would require a very serious surgery, as well as chemotherapy.

After the physician finished debriefing them, the parents walked back into the room and started explaining to their little 8-year-old boy what was going to happen. The nausea... the radiation... the sickness... and how, with Hashem's help, everything would be okay. After some time, one of the doctors called the parents outside to discuss treatment plans. They walked outside and, after a few moments, peaked through the window to their son's room. He wasn't in the bed anymore; he had walked over to the window facing outside. The parents noticed his lips muttering as he stared at the sky, and they opened the door just a bit to hear what he was saying. What they overheard shattered their hearts.

The boy had been talking to Hashem. "I heard what I have," he said. "My parents explained it to me. They told me about the radiation and the chemo and the treatments and the nausea and the hair loss. But I ask You for one favor, Hashem. Please, let my payos remain." The boy had long and thick payos, and expressed that he was willing to go through the terrible suffering, but begged Hashem to let his payos stay.

Six months later, the couple went to visit R' Chaim Kanievsky with their son, and they told him the story. "This is our son, and look, a miracle happened for him. He lost all his hair, his eyebrows, everything – yet his payos still remain." R' Chaim was so inspired that he actually called in his Rebbetzin, asking her to call some of his sons that were nearby. He requested the couple and their son to stay an extra 15 minutes, while he gathered several of his grandchildren. When they finally all gathered, R' Chaim told them: "I want you to see this boy, because you can see from this story how powerful tefillah is and what it can accomplish..." R' Chaim then gave the child a blessing that he survive and live on for many more years.

As the story goes, the boy went on to make a recovery. He got married and even had a child – a boy, whose sandak at the brit ended up being none other than R' Chaim himself.

Let us never undermine the tremendous potential of even a single heartfelt prayer...

Always Hope

R' Paysach Krohn shared something remarkable.

R' Yaakov Gibber recently traveled with 25 congregants from Boca Raton, Florida to the Holy Land, where they visited the warfront, the houses where people were displaced, and Tel Hashomer Hospital. Tel Hashomer, the biggest hospital in Israel, has a whole floor just for amputees, and although this group went with the intention to uplift and deliver encouragement, they had walked out on the receiving end of incredible inspiration.

As they walked around the floor, they noticed a 70-year-old man, dressed in a suit, sitting by one of the beds. They wondered what the elderly man was doing; he didn't seem to be from the army. After making conversation, the old man – who was also an amputee – revealed his tale. "I come here every day to visit and reassure the soldiers that their lives are not over." He explained: "51 years ago, I was a soldier in the Yom Kippur War, where I lost my leg. Since then, I have been able to get a job, I was able to get married, I became a father, and even a grandfather. To these injured soldiers it may look like their lives are over, but I make it my mission to personally show them that there is still hope for a bright future."

This moving example of *ahavat Yisrael* reminds us how pain, when given purpose, can turn a victim into a hero.

Refuah Sheleimah, b'toch she'ar cholei Yisrael:

Ariel Ben Frida Miriam Bat Bakol Yitzhak Ben Naama
Rachamim Ben Shifra Noach Ephraim Ben Elka Sara
Esther Bat Frida Noach Yisrael Ben Victoria Yaffah