



GROWTH

At The

SHABBAT TABLE

PARSHAT SHELACH

Just the Messenger

Reb Chaim Bruk recounted a few fascinating incidents that were recorded in 1952 involving the great Lubavitcher Rebbe, R' Menachem Mendel Schneerson, zt"l.

There was a businessman from Ambato, Ecuador who wrote to the Rebbe that he needed Tefillin straps, pairs of tzitzit, mezuzot, and certain books delivered to him on behalf of the Jews there. The man wasn't a permanent resident of Ecuador, and included in his letter that he was still waiting to obtain a visa to get into Canada. In his response, the Rebbe wrote back that he would ask his office to send over all the Judaic supplies, and addressed the latter portion of the letter as well. "The fact that you still find yourself in Ecuador is obviously because Hashem has a shlichut [mission] for you over there," he responded. He then explained that the reality that Hashem sent him on this business venture to Ecuador, when G-d could have easily provided parnasah in a much more local and religious setting, is a clear indication that He has a special job for him to accomplish there. "Maybe you haven't received your Canadian visa because you haven't yet finished your shlichut in Ecuador, to help the Jews there." The Rebbe encouraged the fellow to keep going, keep inspiring, and keep illuminating, assuring him that not only will it bring him beracha in his spiritual growth, but will also extend to material blessings as it always does.

On another occasion, the Rebbe wrote a letter addressing an individual whose son was at some point the director/principal of a Jewish school in Mexico but had left because his parents had pressured him to spend more of his time learning Torah himself and only later moving on to focus on outreach. "There are hundreds of Jewish children in Mexico – boys and girls – whose Judaism is dependent on someone like your son to be the headmaster of the school so they can receive a proper chinuch," the Rebbe wrote. "And if you're worried about your child's personal Torah study, Hashem gives a beracha that whenever we give ourselves over for His children, we get a thousand times more clarity in our own study of Torah." With that, he begged the individual to encourage his son to go back to Mexico and take care of those Jewish children.

In another letter, the Rebbe addressed someone who had to make a decision regarding a severe medical condition and was considering hospitalization in Rochester, Minnesota. The Rebbe advised him to stay in Chicago, where he lived, and consult with the renowned physicians there. At the end of the letter, after offering guidance on

the medical situation, he wrote: "Who knows? Maybe the whole reason Hashem put you in the hospital is to be mekarev another Jew there and to bring Judaism to that place, and when you've accomplished your mission there, you'll be able to go home..."

In this week's Parsha, Hashem tells Moshe **שְׁלַח לְךָ אַנְשִׁים** – dispatch men for yourself [to spy out the Land of Israel]. We have to internalize that it wasn't just those 12 emissaries who were sent on a mission, but that each of us have our own **שְׁלִיחוּת**/shlichut as well in this world. We were chosen as elite agents of Boreh Olam to be His ambassadors to uplift and inspire the world with love, wisdom, and moral clarity. But it goes a step further: it's not just the receiving end that benefits from your actions as Hashem's messenger of positivity and kindness, but the messenger himself, too, gains tremendously. Hence, Hashem says **שְׁלַח לְךָ** – which can be interpreted homiletically as saying that when you fulfill your shlichut, it's ultimately *your own* source of happiness and prosperity in life. The Talmud teaches that **שְׁלוּחוֹ כְּמוֹתוֹ** – a person's agent is like an extension of himself. Thus, when one acts *l'shem Shamayim* and lives as a representative of G-d, spreading Torah and *chizuk*, he becomes more of a G-dly person and strengthens his attachment to Hashem.

This groundbreaking outlook and insightful mindset that the Rebbe possessed is one that is so important for each of us to adopt and apply in our daily lives. No encounter or experience is random or meaningless; Hashem guides each of us *at all times* in specific directions and environments for us to leave a positive impact. As a Jew, every personal occurrence is a priceless opportunity. Something as simple as a vacation can actually be G-d sending you on a mission to inspire an onlooker or give *chizuk* to someone you've never met before who might be going through a tough time. An ordinary activity like taking a bus or plane can be a significant opportunity to act with dignity and create a *kiddush Hashem*, showcasing the honor of being one of G-d's people.

We're not here to serve ourselves or to gain fame and recognition. We're here to serve Hashem and lift up our people, and if we have the ability to do so, then it doesn't matter where in the world a person finds himself or whichever situation one is dealing with. It could be in Mexico, Ecuador, or Chicago; it could be in a hospital, school, or business. As long as we're alive, we have a job to do, and Hashem is counting on you. *Yes, you...*

"The right temperature in a home is maintained by warm hearts, not hot heads." (R' Paysach Krohn)

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

Ariel Ben Frida	Miriam Bat Bakol	Chana Bat Malka	Heleni Orna Bat Chen Chana	Rahamim Ben Shifra
Frida Bat Yaffa	Yitzchak Ben Naama	Eloar Michael Ben Shiran	Berel Ben Hila	Roi Ben Louise Ron Ben
Avishag	Elkana Yitzchak Ben Ronit	Amir Ben Ella	Nitzan Moshe Ben Maya Daniella	Amit Ben Bella
Liron Ben Chava	Elon Ben Ilana	Achiya Ben Yael Chava	Arad Ben Ayelet	Chana Rachel Bat Ayelet