



"The Black Dot Story"

July 2023

As the summer months are upon us, please don't forget to take some time, as your schedule permits, to share some time with yourself, family and loved ones. A big shout out to each of you, for ALL that you do to keep our city safe and your sacrifice to the well-being of G-D' children, it is appreciated more than you will ever know. And please be mindful, sometimes our challenges, burdens and just listening to the news can shake us up to the core but we need to remember to keep it all in perspective and our heart in focus. Please let me share two short stories that I recently heard from one of our troops that will tickle your heart and soul....." The Black Dot" ...

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions – just a blank sheet of white paper with a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: "I want you to write your thoughts about what you see there." The students, quite confused, got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet of paper. After all, had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: "I'm not going to grade you on this exam, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the sheet of paper. Everyone focused on the black dot totally ignoring the rest of the sheet of paper– and the same happens in our lives. We have a piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift, and we always have reasons to celebrate – nature renewing itself daily, our health, friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, surviving a medical crisis, having a place we call home (many don't), etc. etc.

However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationships with others, or the disappointment with a friend or a coworker. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that occupy our mind. Moral of the story.... Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings and each moment that life gives you. Be happy

and live a life such that even the undertaker will be disappointed when it is your time to go. Remember, life is a gift, enjoy your present!

And the second story, "Making Pancakes"

Six-year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix for his parents some pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard, and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very special and a treat for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad. He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, (and he didn't know how the stove worked!).

Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky. And just then he saw Dad standing at the door.

Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process.

That's how G-d deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when G-d picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him. But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes," for G-d or for others. Sooner or later, we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried. G-d knows we are not perfect, and he is always there for us, all we have to do is call. You don't even need a cell phone, all you have to do is pray from the heart, His love for you never falters, and He never sleeps!

And a bit of humor from the “Moshe Files” to keep you smiling.

“Hearing Aid Salesman” ... A man realized his hearing was failing and he needed to purchase a hearing aid but didn't want to spend a lot of money. “How much do they cost?” he asked the salesman. “Anything from \$2 to \$2,000.” “Can I see the \$2 model?” said the customer. The salesman put the device around the man's neck and said: “You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down into the back of your shirt.” “How does it work?” asked the customer? “For \$2, it doesn't work,” said the salesman. “But when people see with a hearing aid and a wire going into your shirt, they'll talk louder.” Lol.

On behalf of ALL your chaplains, may G-d bless you keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care.

Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps you have some good humor to share (I'm serious) please do not hesitate to call or drop a line.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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