



By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

Do you ever find yourself in a situation in life that leaves you stumped? Did you ever ask your self when faced with a situation on the street, "okay, now how am I going to handle this one?" We all have those moments, sometimes the answer jumps right to mind, and sometimes you have to say a prayer, and say it's time to take a step back and "Think Outside The Bag".....

Many years ago in a small village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to the village moneylender. The money-lender, who was old and crusty, fancied the farmer's young, beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgive the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter. Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal. So the cunning money-lender suggested that they let providence decide the matter. He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to reach in and pick one pebble from the bag. 1) If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven. 2) If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven. 3) But if she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail until the debt was paid.

They were standing on a pebble strewn path in the farmer's field. As they talked, the moneylender bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked them up, the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag. Now, imagine that you were standing in the field. What would you have done if you were the girl? If you had to advise her, what would you have told her?

Take a moment to think through this story. Sometimes we need to force ourselves to find alternate solutions beyond the obvious. The girl's dilemma cannot be solved with traditional logical thinking. You may be in a similar situation. You may be in a position you hate – but the benefits are great. You have two choices (1) You can stay in a position you hate. (2) You can change positions but will then give up the great benefits. Are these really all the options? What would you recommend to the Girl to do? Well, here is what she did....

The girl put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately became lost among all the other pebbles. "Oh, how clumsy of me," she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked." Since the remaining pebble is black, it must be assumed that she had picked the white one. And since the money-lender dared not admit his dishonesty, the girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one.

MORAL OF THE STORY: Most complex situations do have a solution. At times you see it and at times, it is up to us to say a prayer, have faith, look beyond the obvious choices and to think "Outside the Bag".

Some points to ponder. What really matters at the end of the day?....

Ready or not, the day will come to an end.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

It won't matter where you came from, who you knew or on which side of the city you lived.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant, even your gender and back round will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter, included with what you learnt, is how much have you taught others.

Not what you gave in to, but what you stood up for.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, love, that enriched and encouraged others to emulate your example.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice.

You have chosen a profession of serving others and helping G-d's children, and that's what makes you so special. You have earned the privilege to feel proud, **BECAUSE YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**, each in our own way.

On behalf of All your Chaplains, may G-d bless you, and keep you safe. We are honored and privileged to be able to "serve those that serve". Our City couldn't survive without you and for that we are grateful. Should you ever need a shoulder to lean on or wish some company for a ride along, don't hesitate to give us a call. Look us up on the Police Chaplains Ministry website for all our contact information.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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