

" Reflections for Thanksgiving "

November 2013



A boat docked in a tiny fishing village.

A tourist complimented the local fishermen on the quality of their fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

"Not very long." they answered in unison.

"Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?"

The fishermen explained that their small catches were sufficient to meet their needs and those of their families.

"But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"We sleep late, fish a little, play with our children, and take siestas with our wives. In the evenings, we go into the village to see our friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. We have a full life."

The tourist interrupted,

"I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you!

You should start by fishing longer every day.

You can then sell the extra fish you catch.

With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."

"And after that?" asked the fisherman.

"With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant.

You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even Chicago!

From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the fisherman.

"Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years." replied the tourist.

"And after that?"

"Afterwards? Well my friend, that's when it gets really interesting," answered the tourist, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start buying and selling stocks and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?" asked the fishermen.

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends."

"With all due respect sir, but that's exactly what we are doing now. So what's the point wasting twenty-five years?" asked the fisherman.

And the moral of this story is:

Know where you're going in life.... you may already be there. Remember, life is a journey not a destination, enjoy the ride.

This month as we celebrate the Holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our heart and made us cry. We had good times, And times when we were shown more than we can understand. As the saying goes 'one thing in life is for certain, that nothing is for certain'. The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop, and give thanks for what we have, the greatest gift of all "LIFE", that's why it is called 'the present.

"A Thanksgiving Prayer"

Lord thank You for having given us life. G-d You have given us everything that we need and could ever want. Help us to see with your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often we look around but don't really see how lucky we are. Help us to not complain about small things day in and day out either. But rather let us thank you for the simple things in life like sunshine, family and loved ones.

G-d help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by illness or challenges of everyday life. Thou art glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord we are happy for what we have and will have because it comes from You, whatever comes from You is filled with glory and we accept it.

Thank You for having created the ocean for it is beautiful, the sun for it is bright, the moon for it is romantic, and the day and the night. Thank You for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry saying what shall we eat or how are we going to cope with all that is shown to us.

But we should be like the birds and have faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet You provide for them Lord. Help us to have a greater faith in You Lord, and help us to not worry so much.

We thank You Lord for all the beautiful things You bring into our lives each day. Lord help the thanksgiving nature which is within us to become more present in our lives. So that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, we can begin to realize how small our problems are compared to those of others and for us to be thankful for everything we already have. Help us to remember this prayer Lord, and to thank YOU not one day a year but everyday. Amen

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

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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