

## " A Tragedy or a Blessing? "

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So how many times has this happened to you? You run out of the house because you are late to work, you are half way there you look in the back seat and realize that you left part of your uniform on your bed. You're mad, you yell at yourself, you're mad at G-d - why did this happen to you? Now your boss is going to give you a piece of his mind, and you are going to have one of "those" days.

You drive back home as fast as you can. You open the door to your home, you smell something burning from the kitchen and you see smoke coming from the kitchen; "oh shoot" you left the pot of oatmeal cooking on the stove. The water boiled out and now the pot is starting to burn. You made it just in the nick of time. You quickly turn off the flame, open the window to clear out the smoke, and all is good. Now you start thinking; you were mad before because you had to go back home, only to save your home from a fire - now you're grateful. The stories that happen to each of us on a daily basis can fill volumes of books. So the next time something like that happens, ask yourself "Tragedy or Blessing" ...It reminded me of the famous true story that happened with the Carmichael family.....

Many years ago in Scotland, the Carmichael family had a dream. Mr. Carmichael and his wife worked and saved, making plans for their nine children and themselves to travel to the United States. It had taken years of preparations, but they had finally saved enough money and had gotten passports and reservations for the whole family to travel on a new Ship liner to the United States. The entire family was filled with anticipation and excitement about their journey and new life that was waiting for them on the shores of the States. However, seven days before their departure, the youngest son was bitten pretty badly by a stray dog. The boy was rushed to the hospital and the doctors sewed up the boy but hung a yellow sheet on the Carmichael's front door. Because of the possibility of rabies, they were being quarantined to their home for fourteen days.

The family's dreams were dashed. They would not be able to make the trip to America as they had planned. The father, filled with disappointment and anger, stomped to the dock to watch the ship leave - without the Carmichael family. He shed tears of disappointment and cursed both the bad luck of his son, and G-d for their seemingly terrible misfortune.

Five days later, the tragic news spread throughout Scotland and the world - the mighty Tittanic had sunk. The "unsinkable" ship had sunk, taking hundreds of lives with it. The Carmichael family was to have been on that ship ... but because the son had been bitten by a dog, they were left behind in Scotland.

When Mr. Carmichael heard the news, he hugged his son and thanked him for saving the family. He thanked G-d for saving their lives and turning what he had felt was a tragedy into a blessing. End of story.

Although we may not always understand, all things happen for a reason, even though we might not see the reason right away or ever.

Some Aphorisms to make you chuckle..

The nicest thing about the future, is that it always starts tomorrow.

Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

If you don't have a sense of humor when looking at life, you probably don't know on how much you're missing.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark, to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Why is it that at class reunions, you feel younger than everyone else looks?

Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job.

No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.

There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. - like, it could be the right number, (hmmmm).

No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

Be careful about reading the fine print, as there's no way you're going to like it.

The trouble with bucket seat is, that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Yugo.

After 65, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead or specially blessed.

Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.

Life isn't tied with a bow but, it's still a gift.

And REMEMBER :

Take a moment every day and find something to laugh about, even if you have to look in the mirror..

On behalf of all the Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe. Amen.

Should you ever need a shoulder to lean on or have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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