



“Remember To Look Up”

September 2017

As your chaplains we are honored and privileged to be there for you in good times and in times when you need a shoulder to lean on. I had a very humbling experience recently, that I would like to share with you. It was in the wee hours of the morning and I was driving down a dark quiet street, when I noticed one of our cars parked on the side of the street. I pulled over in front of the squad car, parked, and grabbed my candy bag and walked out of my vehicle towards the squad car. I recognized the face; it was "Johnny". I wished him a good morning and exchanged pleasantries, when I noticed that Johnny had tears rolling down his face, and his eyes were puffy from crying. I asked him if everything was okay and he said, "I was just sitting here and praying for a child that was not well". Then he said, "I was just sitting here and saying, Lord, please send me a sign that you are listening to my prayers, and as soon as I finished praying, you pulled up". So I said - "G-d was busy, so He sent me to check up on you". We both had a good laugh. And then he added, "I try to take a few moments every day and say a prayer, because I know I cannot do this alone". We chatted a bit longer, exchanged hugs, and parted ways. As I got back to my car, I couldn't help but shed a tear of gratitude and the powerful lesson that I was reminded, that no matter what life might throw our way, to never be too busy to say a prayer. It reminded me of the poem entitled

"The Buzzard, The Bat, The Bumblebee"

THE BUZZARD: If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a Run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT: The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE: A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE: In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! "Just look up!". Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, But faith looks up! Remember, "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator who loves us". And when your heart gets a bit heavy, don't forget, "just look up" and say a prayer!

... And now a little story from the "Moshe-humor files" to put a smile on your face....

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house. Proceeding into the house, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room, the TV was blaring a

cartoon channel and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly ran up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she may be ill, or that something serious had happened.

He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in the bed in her pajamas reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?"

"Yes" was his incredulous reply.

She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it.".....LOL

A special note to all members of my flock of the Jewish faith, "Shana Tova", blessings to you and your loved ones, for a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year. May 5778 be one of your best years yet. Amen!

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G~d Bless you, keep you safe. Should you need a shoulder to lean on or perhaps some humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

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