

August 6, 2008

Dearest Yiddene,

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones in the best of health.

As I was contemplating the gloom of another imminent Tisha B'av, I began thinking of you and your dear family. The nine days is the time to reflect on our two thousand year golus and what we can do to end it. The Ribono Shel Olom holds each of us responsible to do our share to bring back the Bais Hamikdosh. Chaza'l tell us that the churbon was caused by sinas chinom and the Chofetz Chaim tells us that if it was the cause of the destruction it certainly prevents its being rebuilt. It's human nature to fall into ruts and to think that we're so mired in the muck that we can never get out. Hashem taught us that we're like the moon constantly renewing itself with a new cycle of growth every month. That's the beauty and greatness of Klal Yisroel. The posuk says, 'Ki na'ar Yisroel ve'ohavayhu', 'the Jews are perpetually young and that is why I love them'. This means that we have the quality of youthful resilience, the ability to constantly improve and purify ourselves, even after being in golus for two thousand years.

And so I thought of you. You stopped talking to your mother in law. What happened? You always enjoyed calling and talking things over with her. Are you stuck in a rut? You don't have to be. We can change, we can say, 'I'm tired of this, I want to change'. The Ribono Shel Olom will help you. It's easier than you think. Although, the first step takes courage, the rewards are infinite. Machlokes tears away at the fabric of our lives and those of our friends and family. It causes heart attacks, strokes, the big C, broken marriages and ruined lives. These are besides the terrible gezairos in the heavenly court. Is it worth it? The Ramba'm says that all worldly affairs are not worth getting upset about. They're all so petty and silly. When we get upstairs after 120 we'll never live down the shame, guilt and humiliation that will be our lot when we our actions will have to stand up to the scrutiny of the Dayon Ho'emes and his heavenly tribunal. We all need so very much yeshu'os and simchos. We all yearn for the Ba'al Horachamim to open up the heavenly portals and to shower down upon us his bountiful blessings. But he **CAN'T**. That's right, Kavyochol, his hands are tied. He coupled his interactions with us to how we relate to each other bain odom lachavairo.

Please, I know that you have the courage to take the phone or write a card to your dear mother in law and say "I love you". Please, let's just forget the past and get on with our future. Chaza'l tell us that the world exists in the merit of one who keeps quiet when being insulted during a quarrel. So great is the merit of a passive act. Far greater is the worth of a positive act of true courage, ignoring the past and starting fresh. Hashem will surely grant you eternal nachas from all your wonderful children. Think how much happier they and your husband will be to know that harmony has been restored between you and bubby.

I know you and am confident that you'll succeed. You have what it takes to turn things around. I daven for you – but **you** must take that first step and then Hashem will do the rest. Your act could be the one to bring the longed for geulo. As it says in Nachaim, 'Ki bo'aish hitzato ubo'aish ato oseed livnos', 'For with fire it was burnt and with fire you will rebuild it'. The fire of destruction is the fire of baseless hatred and the fire of reconstruction will be that of the raging battle against the yaitzer of pride and pettiness that you will surely vanquish.

A Loving Friend