

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 110

juggling a classroom of children with a home full of her own.

These aren't dramatic, one-time heroics. It's the daily emotional investment that no paycheck can truly cover.

You may not see it. But it's happening. And it matters.

## 2. What Can You Afford?

The Torah never asks a person to give more than they can. "Chayecha kodmin" — your life comes first (Bava Metzia 62a). If money is tight, give what you can — \$10, \$18, \$36 — but pair it with a heartfelt, handwritten note.

I don't mean, "Thanks for everything. Donny had a really great year." That's polite, but hollow. I mean something specific

"Thank you for helping Sruli through that week when he refused to go to school — and for not giving up."

"Thank you for sitting with Aliza to review for that first big test. She walked taller for weeks afterward."

These notes matter.

A rebbi once told me, "I save every sincere note I get from parents and talmidim. On a hard day — especially after dealing with a challenging student — I take those notes out and reread them. They remind me why I'm doing this."

That's not an exaggeration. That note you write — if it's personal and real — can lift a mechanach during his or her hardest week of the year.

And if you are in a position to give more — if Hashem has blessed you with comfort — then think about the message you're sending. If you tip your cleaning lady \$500 at the end of the year, if you're booking vacation flights, if you're redoing your kitchen — don't hesitate to give your child's rebbi or morah \$1,000, \$1,800, or even \$5,000 over the course of the year. It doesn't have to be all at once.

It just has to show that you value what they've given.

And yes — many poskim permit giving such gifts from maaser money, particularly when the mechanach is in financial need. But as always, check with your Rav.

## 3. What Did They Put Into Your Child?

Not every year is the same. And not every mechanach invests equally in every student. But sometimes — if you're honest — you'll realize that this year's rebbi or morah gave everything.

They noticed your child. They reached him. They believed in her.

The Gemara in Sanhedrin (19b) teaches us that someone who teaches Torah to another's child is considered as if they gave birth to them. I used to think that was an exaggeration. It's not. I've seen rebbeim and morahs treat children as their own — defending them, crying for them, davening for them.

That deserves more than a polite envelope. It deserves real recognition.

## 4. What Do They Need?

Most rebbeim and morahs live with dignity — but many quietly carry heavy burdens. They aren't in chinuch for the money. But the money is still needed.

Summer is especially tough. No regular paycheck. Camp jobs don't pay much. Bills don't stop.

The Torah says: "V'chei achicha imach" — your brother should live with you (Vayikra 25:36). The Rambam (Hilchos Matanos Aniyim 10:2) teaches that the highest level of tzedakah is helping someone before they fall.

This isn't charity. It's respect. It's saying, "I see your effort, and I want to support you — not just in spirit, but in substance."

## 5. Think Like the Torah Think

When a poor person knocks on your door, halacha doesn't say, "Give him \$1 like everyone else." It says: "Kefi machsoro

asher yechsar lo" — give according to what he lacks (Devarim 15:8).

The Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh De'ah 249:6) says the same: Give based on his needs, not your assumptions.

And if we do that for a stranger we see once, how much more so for the person who stood by your child every day, rain or shine, through tantrums, triumphs, and tefillos?

## 6. This Is Not a Tip

You're not tipping a waiter. You're honoring a shaliach Hashem.

You're telling your child, through your actions:

"We value Torah. We value the people who give it. And we don't take it for granted."

Whether it's \$18, \$500, \$5,000, or anything else — give something. Give a note. Give it from the heart. But don't let the year end with nothing.

Because what you're really saying is:

"I saw what you gave my child. And I will not let that go unnoticed."

That is hakaras hatov.

That is Torah.

That is how we raise children who value their teachers, their learning, and their journey.

With love and pride,

**Abba**

## THE LABYRINTH OF AIR CONDITIONING

It's very likely that you've experienced, at least once in your life, when either the air conditioning was too high in the office or one side of the office was cooler than the other. You would think air conditioning is such a blessing; how could it still cause issues? But the lesson is that in life everything must be measured properly, as the Rambam says, the middle path is the right one to take.

**Steven Genack**

## A REBBE'S CONNECTION

The following is a note which I gave to my students at the end of the school year:

*The Gemara in Makos Daf yov says "I learned a lot from my rebbeim and more from my chaverim and, most of all, I learned from my talmidim."*

*Therefore, I thank you very much for being my student. May Hashem help you continue to grow to be a true Eved Hashem.*

*Brocha, hatzlacha v'kol tov tomid!*

*B'hava,*

**Your Rebbe**

Perhaps other rebbeim might want to do something similar. When we thank

our students, not only are we expressing *hakaras hatov*, but we are teaching them to have *hakaras hatov*.

**A Rebbe**

## GRATITUDE

In the wake of such unprecedented hatzlacha against a mortal enemy, we no longer have an excuse of claiming we don't see open miracles in our day. From places being evacuated moments before critical strikes, or seforim/tefillin/sifrei torah being spared in a fully damaged room, and sheer military miracles of "Rabim biyad Miatim", one can't write off such things to chance. Besides the removal of an existential threat that even the Neviim spoke about the danger of Paras and its crazy melech. The good news is it's easy to show gratitude in the most meaningful way. It's very nice to say Hallel which are perakim from tehilim, but you can do more than that. How about supporting the Torah which is still struggling financially at a very critical time? That situation hasn't changed, but perhaps your momentum will. Keren Olam Hatorah is the official name spearheading the campaign to fundraise for lomdim and yeshivos in eretz yisrael. The gedolim that are still here for that cause are circling our communities asking for our help in this tremendous endeavor. Whether you prefer to give online, by phone, or one of their office you can call and find out how to donate in person. Turn the feelings of gratitude you have to Hashem in these times of great yeshuos into something concrete. Nothing makes Hashem happier than when people support learning, so now is the time to do just that. Be a name on that great list in heaven!

**Klemmy**

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