

THE BLIND GIRL

There was once a girl named Chana, who was blind. Chana was already of age, and was looking for a shidduch. As you can imagine, it was not a simple task. She went out with this boy named Chaim and they fell madly in love with each other. It wasn't long before they were married. Chaim took very good care of her.

One day they were listening to the radio and they heard something about a doctor in the United States who was able to do eye transplants. Chana was so excited! She said to Chaim, "Eye transplants! If I can get eye transplants, then I would be able to see, and I've never been able to see my whole life! It would be amazing! How can we do it?!"

So Chaim researched it, and Chana was put on the waiting list. The problem was, being that such a surgery was so complicated, in high demand, and only one doctor was willing to risk it, besides for the fact that not too many people were willing to donate their eyes, the waiting period was extremely long – 20 years, in fact. Chaim saw his wife was very broken.

Around a month later, he came into the house and said, "Chanala, it's a miracle! For some reason, they pushed us up to the top of the list! You're next!! They found a donor for you! I'm going to take you to the hospital and we're going to get you that eye transplant!"

Chana didn't even bother to ask what he had done or how he had done it. She was just too excited at the thought of finally being able to see! The day before the operation, Chaim turned to Chana and said, "Chana, I just have to tell you something that you didn't know since we were married. Not only are you blind, I'm also blind, but I never wanted you to know that. I never wanted you to pity me, I wanted to be there for you, to take care of you. So I want you to have this eye transplant. I'll get one too, but I want you to have this one. I'm just saying this so that when you get your eyes, don't be shocked to see that I'm blind." She started to cry, "I can't believe you love me so much! You could've gotten the eye transplant, and I could've waited!" and she just expressed how she loved him very much.

The next day, the transplant was performed, and it worked. Chana could see! Of course, it now became obvious to her that her husband was blind, but it didn't bother her – at first. "Ok," she thought, "He took care of me, and now I'll take care of him."

But as time went on, their marriage began to dissolve. Always schlepping him around, her not being able to go skiing because he couldn't go skiing, not being able to travel because he couldn't – she was finding his blindness to be a real burden.

It began to drive a rift between the two of them, until finally their marriage was just not working. She didn't have the heart to talk to him in person, so she called him one day and said "Chaim, it's just not working anymore. I can't live with you anymore; I want a divorce." Chaim was shocked, he couldn't believe it. Especially when Chan explained her reasons – "Chaim, I want to be married to someone who can see the world with me. I want a different life."

Chaim, heartbroken, replied, "I can't really say I understand, but if that's what you want, then I respect it and will go to beis din. I'll pack up and be out of the house tonight." He was as good as his word. That night, he packed up all his belongings, and left the home they had shared together.

When Chana returned home, all his belongings were gone, and there on her bed was a letter that Chaim had written.

"Dear Chana,
I really, really love you, and I have always loved you. I respect your decision to leave me, but I have one big favour to ask of you. And that favour is, take care of those eyes, because not long ago they were mine.
Love, Chaim."

Yes, there was no more 20-year-wait, because Chaim had given her his eyes.

As we sit here, right before Rosh Hashana, there's a Pasuk in the Bereishis, which says
"Vayitzar Hashem Elokim es hadam uful min hadama"
"G-d created man, dirt from the earth"
"Vayipach l'apog nishmas chaim".

And G-d blew into every one of us, life, a soul. He gave us a transplant; He gave us His soul. And what do we do? What do we do with that holy soul? We tell Hashem, "Oh, thanks, the soul is great and all, but I gotta go see the world! I gotta be busy with my phone and busy with everything else but You!"

But Hashem gave us these eyes! He gave us this soul. And on Rosh Hashana, Hashem tells us to take care of that neshama because that neshama was once Mine.

We need to look inside ourselves, and ask ourselves if we really take care of that soul that G-d gave us – or are we like Chana, so busy looking at everything in the world that we don't realize where life itself comes from?! On Rosh Hashana, it's time to begin crying and saying, "I'm sorry! I can't believe what I did! You gave me Your eyes and I use them to look at things I'm not supposed to, You gave me Your feet and I walk to the wrong things, You gave me Your mouth and I say the wrong things! You gave me the ability to eat and I didn't make a bracha! Every part of me You gave me I abused!!"

If you're able to listen to all the Tekiyas and change what's inside your soul, then bez"H, you should be zocheh this year to hear that final Tekiah Gedolah we've all been waiting for – Moshiach!