קִרְבָה אֶל נַפְשִׁי גְאָלָהּ

Nafshi Geula

Parables and Stories in Pictures – for Children and Adults



The Erev Shabbos When Everything Went Wrong

When everything goes wrong – don't look for who is to blame

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לישועות מעל הטבע וכל טוב

להארות והערות, לתרומות והנצחות, ולכל ענייני מכון 'נפשי גאלה':

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1 Friday morning. Abba hangs a big page on the fridge.



2 Yossi and Chaimke salute like soldiers.



3 At the store – a long line all the way to the door. Abba looks at his watch and starts to sweat.



4 At home, Abba unpacks all the bags...



5 Abba runs back to the store – and the door is locked.



6 The kind neighbor hands him two challahs, and Abba sighs with relief.



7 Abba puts the pots on the hot plate. An hour later – everything is cold! The plug was never in the socket...



8 Chaimke wants to help – and spills grape juice on the white Shabbos shirt.



9 The Shabbos timer for the lights is broken, and Abba battles with it using a screwdriver.



10 Yossi's other shoe has disappeared! Everyone crawls under the beds... and finds it – in the laundry basket!



11 Abba lifts the lid of the cholent pot – and a black cloud bursts out. The cholent is burnt!



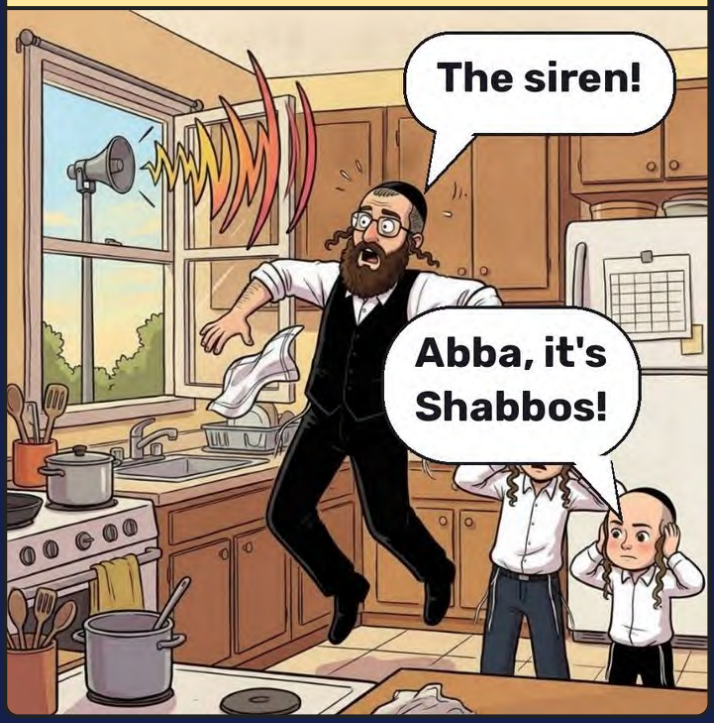
12 Abba quickly makes a new cholent. Yossi holds the potatoes, and Chaimke holds the eggs – two are already on the floor...



13 The clock on the wall shows it is very late, and on the schedule on the fridge – every line is crossed out.



14 The Shabbos siren! Abba jumps in place.



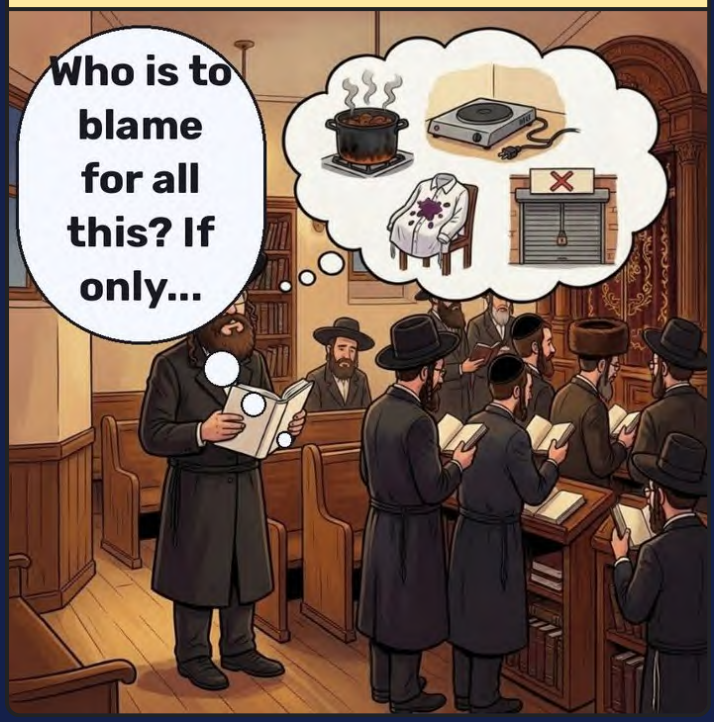
15 Abba runs to the mikveh, towel over his shoulder, his hat almost flying away.



16 When he reaches the shul, everyone is already in the middle of "Hodu laHashem ki tov." Abba comes in out of breath.



17 All the mishaps run through his head: the challahs, the hot plate, the cholent...



18 But Abba shakes his head, and all the thoughts pop like a balloon.



19 He enters into the holy words: "Let those redeemed by Hashem say it, whom He redeemed from the hand of the oppressor" – and light shines from the siddur.



20 In his mind's eye he sees how Hashem takes his soul out of all the iron bars that close in on him.



21 "They rise up to the heavens, they go down to the depths" – all the hardships are like stormy waves. And Hashem, the merciful Father, reaches out and draws him from the sea.



22 He feels the thirst of those who walk through the desert – and how Hashem sends His word and heals him of all the ailments of his soul.



23 Abba, Yossi and Chaimke sing around the Shabbos table. The cholent is a bit strange and the shirt has a purple stain – but their faces are shining.



24 Some time later, everything is ready exactly at twelve. Abba tries to feel again like that Shabbos – and cannot. He smiles.



What We Learn

Sometimes nothing goes according to plan. But instead of searching for who is to blame and who wasn't careful, we put all of that out of our minds and enter into the holy words. Then we truly feel Hashem's mercy: how He takes us out of the prison bars, out of the stormy sea and out of the desert – and we merit a Shabbos of light like no other.



Based on a parable from the 'Nafshi Geula' essays
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