

Directed & Protected

A man made a purchase at a grocery store and forgot to take his change. After he left, the cashier saw the money and said to the store owner that this had person left \$1.98 on the counter. The boss told him to put it back in the register. At that moment, the boss accidentally knocked over a jar of pickles, breaking it. The worker then went to clean it up and informed the boss that the jar was priced at \$1.98. This would seem like an obvious message as both cost \$1.98. However, the response of the boss was, "I guess it was a good thing the person left his change so that I wouldn't lose any money from the broken jar."

R' Yitzchak Zev Soloveitchik, also known as the Brisker Rav, would say that if one says he lost money because of a hole in his pocket, he is denying Hashem. Rather, since Hashem wanted him to lose the money, he had the hole in his pocket.

Hashem alone does everything. This is just as we say in the first *ani maamin*—*hu borei u'manhig l'chol ha'brum...*, Hashem creates and guides all creatures and He alone made, makes and will make everything.

Prior to having surgery, a woman told her doctor, "Don't worry if you fail because it is all from G-d. However, the same applies if the surgery is successful—it is all from G-d!" We must realize that no one can help or hurt us without Hashem's authorization (see Chovos Halevavos, Shaar Habitachon, 5 and Shomer Emunim, Maamar Hashgacha Pratis, 13). A sign read, "Faith is an acronym for Forward All Issues to Hashem."

In his speeches in the Kovno Ghetto, R' Mordechai Pogromansky (1903–1949) would say about the vicious Nazis patrolling the ghetto, "I don't see Germans around. I see the *pesukim* of *Tanach* coming to life."

R' Avraham Genichovsky related the following episode to his students. R' Genichovsky's watch once fell to the ground and stopped working. He brought it to a watchmaker because he figured something had broken inside. However, he was told that all it needed was a new battery. He inquired, "If it stopped working when it fell, why would the battery die exactly when the watch fell to the ground?" The watchmaker explained that the battery was weak, but functioning. When it fell, the watch stopped for a moment, but it didn't have strength to begin again. R'

Avraham Genichovsky told his students that one's emuna needs to be strong so that even when one falls or goes through hard times, his emuna won't fail. If the emuna is weak, every small struggle may cause him to fail.

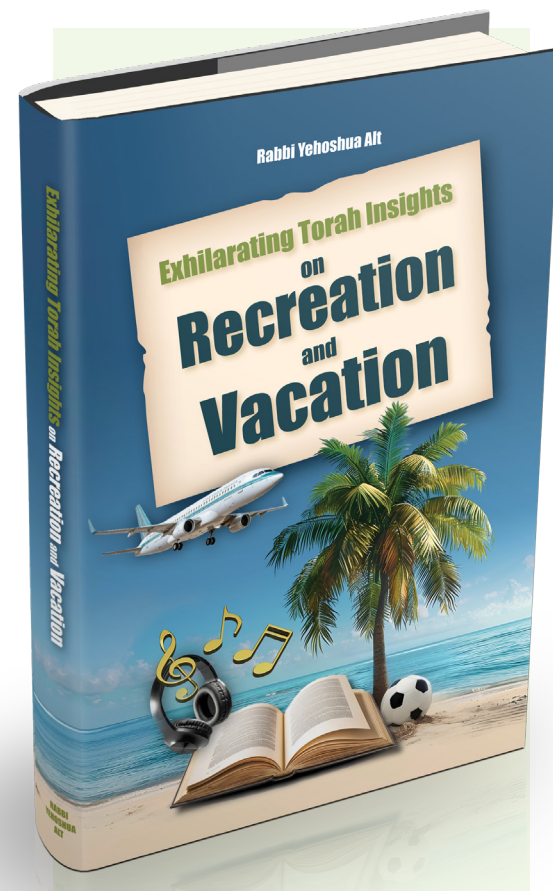
An expression that is imperative to internalize: "We need a faith that will not shrink when washed in the waters of affliction and adversity."

Trusting in Hashem is like an insurance policy: one can have a policy granting coverage for 1,000, 10,000 or 100,000 dollars. The larger the policy, the more he is covered. Similarly, the insurance we receive from Hashem depends upon the amount of trust we place in Him.

A Gerrer chassid had a non-Jewish partner in business who came with him to his Rebbe, the *Beis Yisrael* (1895–1977), because the chassid wouldn't do anything with money without the advice of the Rebbe. The non-Jew wanted to see a relationship between a Rebbe and chassid. The Rebbe told him that this man isn't a chassid. Look instead at that person as he is a true *chassid*. He doesn't do anything with his money without asking me, despite the fact that he has lost money each time he listened to me. Emuna is when things don't go our way, as it is easy to believe when it goes in the way we desire. A well-known expression goes, "If Hashem put a period, we shouldn't put a question mark."

R' Avraham Yaakov of Sadigura interpreted *rabos machshavos b'lev ish va'atzas Hashem hi sakum* (Mishlei 19:21) in the following way. That which there is *rabos machshavos b'lev*—the many and running thoughts of worry and fear is because you think everything is dependent on man (*ish*). *va'atzas*—the advice to get out of this is *Hashem hi sakum*—that Hashem is always in front of you, so you will remember all that happens is Divine Providence.

Let us conclude with what R' Yitzchak Dovid Gutfarb would say. R' Gutfarb lived in Yerushalayim and as a result would travel by bus. He once remarked, "I never missed a bus. Sometimes I came early for the next bus, since that was the bus destined for me to travel on. I never missed a bus that was meant for me."



RABBI YEHOSHUA ALT

The newly released book "Exhilarating Torah Insights on Recreation and Vacation" is now available (as a paperback, hardcover and digitized version) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DF4ZHPKJ> or by sending a WhatsApp to +972 54 849 5217. Alternatively, you can call 054 849 5217 (Israel) or 917 732 2371 (United States) or send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com.

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.

What role does recreation play in our service of Hashem?

What does the Torah teach us about music?

What lessons can we glean from specific types of recreation, such as sports?

Is there a mitzvah to take a vacation?

What does the Torah say about comedy and humour?

To join the thousands of recipients and receive these insights free on a weekly email, obtain previous articles, feedback, comments, suggestions (on how to spread the insights of this publication further, make it more appealing or anything else), to support or dedicate this publication which has been in six continents and more than forty countries, or if you know anyone who is interested in receiving these insights weekly, please contact the author, Rabbi Yehoshua Alt, at yalt3285@gmail.com. Thank you.