

❧ The danger of talking during davening ❧

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- ❖ During the terrible persecutions of 1648-1649, The Tosfos Yom-Tov was told in his dream, that the one, main cause of all the persecutions was, **because people talk during Davening!!!**
- ❖ Yehuda Chaim Neuzats z"l, a holocaust survivor, writes in his letter what he himself witnessed during the second world war (translated from Hebrew):

Holocaust winter 1944, when I was with a group of people next to the train station in the town "Rachov", a certain lady approached us and said the following: "Jews, do you know why you suffer so much? Because you talk idle chatter during the tefillah and you do your business in shul" Those were her words and after a few seconds she disappeared. Nobody knew who she was, where she had come from and where she went.

Signed on motzei shabbos parshas vayeshev 24th of kislev year 5735.

*yehuda chaim neuzats
Rechov Breslov 19
Bnei Brak*

- ❖ Hagoan Harav Avrohom Eliezer Wosner Shlit"a relates as follows: "My reverent grandfather, the Goan Harav Shmuel Halevi Wosner zt'l told me that the widespread breakout of the terrible illness (cancer) that has struck so many, is caused as a result of people being lax in [upholding] the holiness of the shuls and **they talk idle chatter whilst the prayers are being held**, and if the congregation will stop the [idle] chatter, the illness [of cancer] will stop".
- ❖ The Vishnitzer Rebbe (Harav Moshe Yehoshua zt'l) once asked the Lelover Rebbe (Harav Shimon zt'l) "What should we do about the terrible illness (of cancer)?" The Lelover responded: "In our shuls we don't know of this illness" (i.e. it isn't found among us). They asked the Vishnitzer Rebbe, "What did the Rebbe mean by this?" and he answered: **"Since by them there's no talking during davening."**
- ❖ The Birchas Avraham of Slonim once said: "The tragic occurrences which take place, such as car crashes, terrorists, etc, **are all because of talking in Shul.**"!
- ❖ Approximately 25 years ago, someone approached Harav Avigdor Miller zt'l and requested advice and a blessing for his child who had been diagnosed with cancer. In those days they didn't have any treatments to cure that particular cancer. The Tzadik listened to the desperate father and responded, **"This has come about because in the shul which you daven, people are not careful not to talk during davening.** I therefore advise you to daven at a different shul where they are careful not to talk during tefillah."
This Yid immediately moved to a different shul where they were extremely careful not to talk during davening and kriyas Hatorah. After a few weeks, the father returned to the doctor to reassess the medical situation. After performing more tests the doctor approached the father in complete shock and bewilderment. Holding the new scan results in his hand, he turned to the father and said, "The illness has completely disappeared and your child is b"h 100% healthy. Today, that child is the father of a large family.
- ❖ About 10 years ago, someone in Australia passed away on the day of his daughter's marriage. On the third day of the shivah, the shadchan's wife had a dream that **the reason that this tragedy happened is because people are talking during davening**".

The following letter, written on Shevat 14, 5765, provides a glimpse of one businessman's awakening to the immense impact of not speaking during prayer, and of the fruits of his inspiring efforts to improve.

Dear Friends,

Three weeks ago in Eretz Yisrael I had the z'chus [merit] to have an incredible and inspiring visit with **Rav Chaim Kanievsky**, which I would like to share with you. I asked Rav Chaim if he would be *mispallel* [pray] for a *refuah sheleimah* [recovery] for a good friend of mine from our shul. You can imagine my reaction when Rav Chaim asked me, "Do they talk in your shul?" I responded, "Yes, but it's much better lately." Rav Chaim immediately said, "That's not enough. The talking **must stop completely!**" And with that, he asked his son, Rav Shloime, to take out a *Mishnah Berurah*. Rav Chaim pointed to the *shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim, Siman 124 (Seif 7)*, which clearly states: "Lo ya'siach sichas chullin b'shaah she'ha'shaliach tzibbur chozer hatefillah. V'im sach hu chotei, vegadol avono min'so" - One should not speak mundane talk while the *chazzan* repeats the *Shemoneh Esrei*. If one does speak such talk, he is a sinner."

I then said to Rav Chaim, "But that's only during *chazaras hashatz*." "No!" Rav Chaim said, pointing to the *Mishnah Berurah* that says that one should not speak during the entire davening. "speak to the people in your shul," Rav Chaim continued, "and tell them that they should be mekabel (accept) on themselves, b'li neder, not to speak at all during davening, and in that z'chus your friend will have a *refuah sheleimah*. "That's not enough," I said.

Rav Chaim looked at me questioningly and asked, "What do you mean?" I replied, "Nowadays, sometimes quoting the *Shulchan Aruch* is not enough. I need to tell them that Rav Chaim personally requested that there should be no talking in shul." Looking puzzled, Rav Chaim again asked me, "What do you mean?"

I then told Rav Chaim the famous remark of the Kotzker Rebbe, "It is unfortunate that the Ten Commandments were not written by R' Yehudah HaChassid!" At that, Rav Chaim burst out laughing (a very rare occurrence) and said, "All right, you can tell the congregants, **in my name**, that in this z'chus your friend will have a *refuah sheleimah* and I will be *mispallel* not only for him but for the success of all the congregants of the Shul as well."

I left Rav Chaim feeling very moved and eager to convey his message ... The other night my doorbell rang and my friend who had been ill stopped by for a visit. I was shocked! I knew that as of the day before he still had not been doing well, and there he was in my living room looking wonderful. To my great joy, he told me that he was really feeling much better... Truthfully, as someone who is guilty of talking in shul myself, I feel awkward writing this letter. But I heard Rav Chaim's *havtachah* [promise] firsthand, to *daven* for our friend - and for all of us - and I have already seen the fruits of his efforts. I could not help but be inspired to try to make a change.

And so with the permission and encouragement of my friend and his family, I am writing to convey this message from Rav Chaim Kanievsky. **It is now up to us to take the next step.** May our sincere effort in this matter bring hatzlachah [success] and refuos and yeshuos [salvation] to us all.

Sincerely,
M. Hager
Brooklyn, N.Y.

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- ❖ The Rebbe of Alexander (the Imrei Menachem zt'l) once announced on erev Yom Kippur, "I Hereby promise that any person who takes upon himself not to talk idly while the congregation are davening will merit **children, [long] life and financial comfort.**
- ❖ There was a person that didn't have children for 28 years. One day, all the mispalleim of that shul took upon themselves not to talk during davening and the next year on the same day that they took upon themselves, he was blessed with twins.

Dear brothers, it's so clear that a big reason of the tsoros is because people are talking during davening and our shul is not treated with respect. Please take upon yourselves not to talk even one word during the whole tefillah, and we'll all see great miracles!