

## Blessing for a Shiduch

*Two of the taxi passengers en route from Ben Gurion airport to Jerusalem struck up a casual conversation. Following the friendly "Jewish geography" exchange in which one of the travelers introduced himself as a Jew from Antwerp, his new acquaintance, a Jerusalemite, continued with the common question, "What brings you here?"*

*The man from Antwerp hesitated for a moment. His European nature was not as open and uninhibited as the Israeli's. But somehow, his fellow passenger put him at ease.*

*"I'll tell you the truth," began the visitor. "This past summer on a trip to New York, I traveled to Brooklyn to ask the Lubavitcher Rebbe for a blessing for my handicapped son. We have had great difficulty finding a suitable match for him. As I passed by the Rebbe, he handed me a dollar saying b'suros tovos - good tidings. Then he gave me an additional dollar and said: 'For tzedakah in the Holy Land.'*

*"I was sure that the Rebbe had mistakenly thought I was a visitor from Israel. I didn't understand how this response applied to me, and I returned to Antwerp. Weeks passed and the holidays arrived. One day, during Chol Hamoed Sukkos, my wife and I were discussing our family affairs. We were both very concerned about the future of our son, who was not getting any younger. During the course of our conversation, my encounter with the Rebbe came up.*

*"My wife became thoughtful. 'Perhaps we should have taken the Rebbe's words more seriously,' she suggested. 'Let's follow his directive. Take a few days off after the holiday and travel to Israel to give tzedakah in the Holy Land, just as the Rebbe had said.'*

*"This is the reason for my journey," he concluded. The visitor from Antwerp had been casting his eyes on the scenery as he told his story. It was only now that he noticed a strange mixture of awe and nervousness on the Jerusalemite's face.*

*"I wonder," the man was mumbling, unable to hide his excitement. Responding to the visitor's puzzled look, the man from Jerusalem struggled to regain his composure and related: "I am returning from a trip to New York, where I spent the holidays. I took the opportunity to ask the Rebbe for a blessing for my daughter. We would very much like to see her happily married. The Rebbe gave me a slice of lekach (honey cake) for my daughter saying: 'May she find a good shiduch (match) in the near future.'*

*The man from Jerusalem took a deep breath. "Perhaps we should both pursue the issue. You see, my daughter also has a handicap." The engagement party was held shortly thereafter.*

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