בס"ד

# זכרו תורת משה

לעילוי נשמת ר' משה בן החבר צבי זצ"ל ור' משה יצחק בן אברהם צבי הכהן זצ"ל

פרשת חיי שרה ה'תשפ"ז

HEARTWARMING STORIES FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE

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## Made in Heaven

*Of all the areas of life in which we can clearly see the Yad Hashem, perhaps none is more remarkable than shidduchim.*

Rabbi Stunfeld* played an instrumental role in establishing the growing Jewish community in Brazil, where a group of families had joined together to build a new Torah community. He remained deeply involved in their welfare, always ready to assist with whatever challenges arose and help the families settle into their new surroundings.

One summer day in 2025, while visiting his sister, who lived in Brazil, Rabbi Stunfeld struck up a conversation with his nephew, who was of marriageable age. During their discussion, he asked whether his nephew planned to drive to a *vort*.



"No," his nephew replied. "I don't drive."

Rabbi Stunfeld was surprised. In this day and age, he wondered, how could a young man manage without driving?

Being a practical, down-to-earth person, he couldn't help asking a few questions. "What will you do when you're married?" he asked. "Suppose your wife needs groceries. Who will go to the store?"

Before his nephew could respond, Rabbi Stunfeld's sister interjected.

"My son is going to marry a girl who wants to support him in learning. She won't expect him to run errands or go grocery shopping. She'll want him to remain within the four walls of the b*eis midrash*, immersed in Torah."

Rabbi Stunfeld was taken aback. He hadn't expected that answer, and the conversation stayed with him.

Sometime later, he happened to share the exchange with a friend from the Brazil community. As soon as the friend heard the story, his expression changed.

"You won't believe this," he said. "I have to tell you something that happened to me."

About a year earlier, the friend had traveled to Lakewood for his cousin's bar mitzvah.

Among the family members was one brother whose approaches to religious observance varied. While most followed a more Chareidi lifestyle, this one was more modern.

At one point, this brother began teasing his unmarried sister about the type of husband she hoped to marry.

"So tell me," he asked, "what kind of hat will your husband wear? A wide brim or a narrow brim? And when he goes grocery shopping, will he wear his hat, or will he go without it?"

She didn't hesitate.

"My husband won't be going grocery shopping," she replied. "I want to support him so that he can devote himself entirely to learning Torah."

Rabbi Stunfeld could hardly believe what he was hearing. Two young people, in two different cities, had expressed virtually the same outlook.

He immediately called his sister.

"I just heard about a girl in Lakewood who sounds like she could be exactly what your son is looking for," he told her, relating the remarkable conversation.

To his astonishment, his sister replied that the very same girl had already been suggested as a possible *shidduch* for her son. Her résumé was sitting among the other suggestions they had received, waiting to be considered.

"Don't wait another minute!" Rabbi Stunfeld urged. "Find that résumé, pull it straight to the top of the pile, and look into this *shidduch*!"

His sister needed little convincing. The extraordinary similarity between the two conversations was too striking

to ignore. She promptly began making inquiries, and before long, the young man and woman were introduced.

The *shidduch* progressed, and the two became engaged, ready to build a home together founded on their shared commitment to Torah.

What makes this story so remarkable is not merely that two people shared the same aspirations. It is the unlikely chain of conversations that brought them together. A casual question about attending a *vort*, an unexpected answer, and a seemingly unrelated family conversation all became links in the chain that led to their *shidduch*.

Hashem has countless ways of bringing two people together. Sometimes, He allows us a glimpse of how even the smallest details are woven into His greater plan. A conversation that seems insignificant at the time may turn out to be the very means through which two people discover the future waiting for them.

# A Prayer Never Forgotten

The Cohen* family from Brooklyn had long dreamed of leaving their large city and settling in a smaller, close-knit community, where every family was valued and every individual received personal attention. After exploring several possibilities, they decided to make their home in Chicago, where they were warmly welcomed into the local *kehillah*.



Housing was scarce, but the community made every effort to accommodate newcomers, helping them find suitable homes and extending generous hospitality. Through these efforts, the Cohens soon settled into an apartment.

Not long after moving in, they learned something heartbreaking about the family who had lived there before them. One of their children had been diagnosed with a serious illness, and the family had been forced to relocate abroad to be closer to specialists who could provide the necessary care.

Although the Cohens had never met the family, they were deeply moved by their plight. Without telling anyone, they resolved to include the sick child in their *tefillos*, praying for his complete *refuah* and *yeshuah*.

As the years passed, the Cohens settled into their new life in Chicago. Yet they never forgot the sick child who had once lived in their apartment. Though they had never met him, they continued to include him in their *tefillos*, hoping and praying for his recovery.

Seventeen years later, after countless treatments and a long, difficult struggle, the young man finally recovered. *Baruch Hashem*, he regained his health and was ready to begin a new chapter in his life.

In time, a suitable *shidduch* was suggested, and after meeting the prospective bride, the young man became engaged.

It was only at the engagement that an extraordinary connection came to light.

His bride-to-be was none other than the daughter of the Cohen family, the very people who had moved into his family's former apartment and had spent years praying for his recovery!

For so long, the Cohens had prayed for the healing of a child they had never met, never imagining that their heartfelt *tefillos* would one day become intertwined with their own family's future. The boy whose recovery they had pleaded for was now to become their son-in-law.

A quiet act of kindness is never lost. Sometimes we are privileged to witness its impact in this world; at other times, its reward remains hidden until the World to Come. Yet nothing is ever forgotten, not a single prayer, nor even the smallest gesture of concern for another Jew.



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