

STORY

The King's Messenger and the Horse



A great king lived in a beautiful palace, high above the cities that he ruled. One day, the king called in his loyal messenger and asked him to set

out on a journey to the cities below on a mission to see where fixes were needed and what tasks needed to be attended to by the kingdom. The king promised the messenger great reward if he returned successful from his journey, and he supplied the messenger with a strong horse to ride to be able to carry out his bidding.

The messenger set out on his journey, but the horse was soon tired and wanted to rest. After a short stop, the messenger was eager to continue on his journey and fulfill the king's bidding, but the horse wanted to sleep some more. Finally he managed to rouse the horse but then it wanted to eat. The messenger gave the horse some oats and continued on the journey. Soon they came across a group of female horses grazing in the field. The horse began to stray off the path towards the mares and the messenger had no choice but to whip his horse back onto the path. When this kept repeating itself, the messenger fashioned a pair of blinders out of leather

to keep the horse from getting distracted by looking to the sides. After a few more hours, the horse again wanted to eat and rest, and when they were finally on the way again, the horse stumbled and got stuck in the mud. It took the messenger many hours to pull it out of the mud and continue on the journey.

And so it went, at all stages of his travels throughout the kingdom. The horse kept straying, wanting to eat, rest and getting stuck in all sorts of unpleasant situations. Throughout it all, the messenger kept reminding himself of the king's mission and his great responsibility. He had to keep whipping the horse into submission so it would stay on track.

When the messenger finally returned to the king after many months of grueling travel, the king greeted him with great pomp and fanfare, personally coming out to greet him with a full royal entourage. The messenger was truly grateful, but asked the king why he had given him the horse in the first place. After all, it was continuously distracting to him, causing him no end of delays and hardships. The king smiled and explained, "My dear messenger. I knew that the horse would distract you and be a big nuisance, but without the horse you could never have fulfilled the mission. It was the horse that carried you down to

Story continued on next page...

SMILE! IT'S CONTAGIOUS



The city that never sleeps went to sleep for 2 months and woke up on the wrong side!



A salesman knocks on the front door one evening. A man comes to the door. "Yes, how can I help you?" "I'm looking for the person who is the master of the house." "Oh!" the man said, "Just stand by, we're deciding on that issue right now."



A man tells his wife "Just so you know... I never want to live in a vegetative state dependent on some machine. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." His wife gets up and unplugs the TV



On average, a Panda feeds for approximately 12 hours per day. This is the same as an adult at home under quarantine, which is why we call it a "Pandemic"



STORY

the cities below and allowed you to travel throughout my kingdom and do my bidding. And it is precisely because you succeeded in spite of the hardships that I now wish to appoint you as one of my closest advisors. The mission I gave you was really a test to see if you would become distracted



from your duty to the king, or if you would always remember your responsibility and utilize the horse to your advantage, while keeping it in submission."

Our souls were sent down to this world on an important mission

for the King of kings. We were given a body--like the horse in the parable--to enable us to interact with the physical

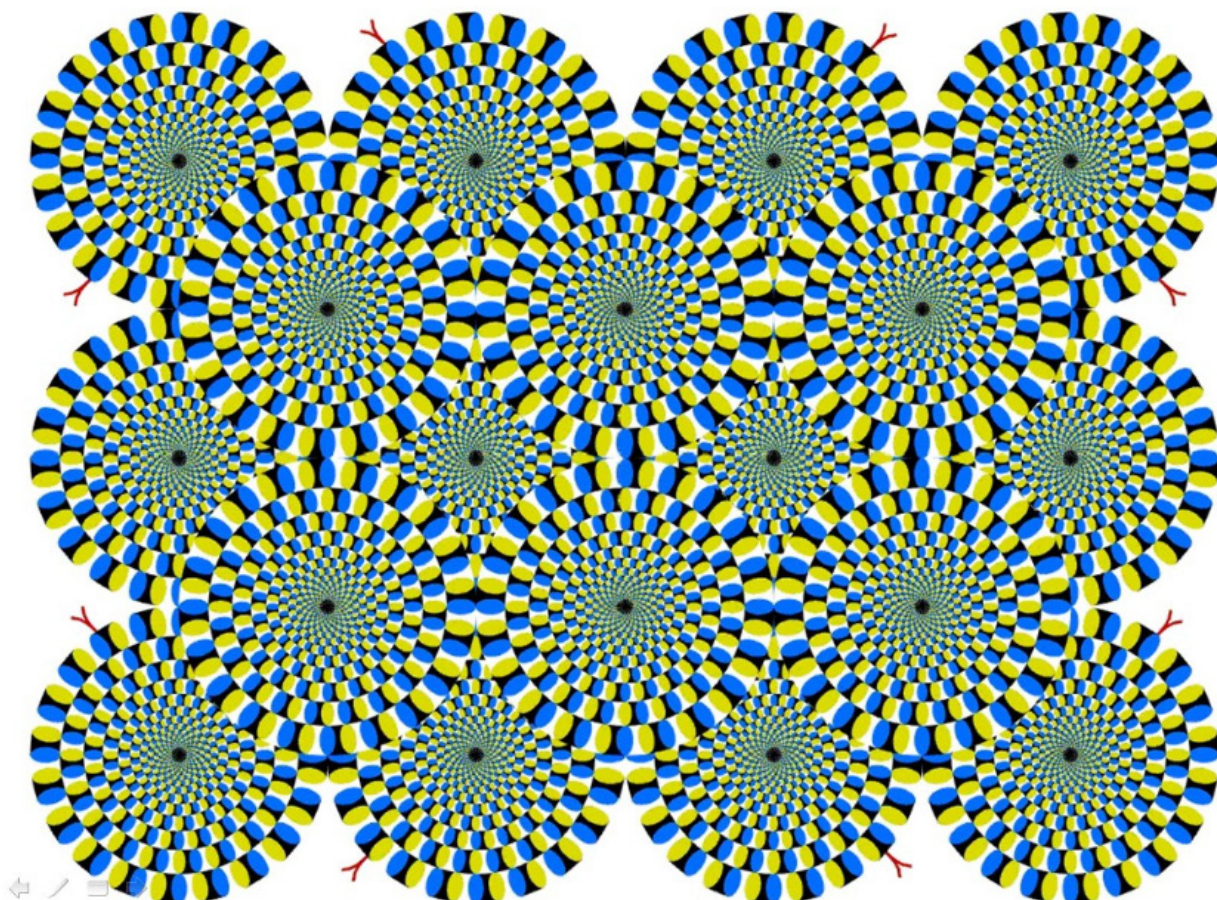
world and carry out the King's bidding. Yes, our "horse" keeps feeling hungry, tired, lazy and sometimes distracted by the "mares", but we must keep the binders on its eyes and remember that we are the riders of the horse, with full control of the reigns! When we feel overwhelmed by desire and feel like it's just too hard, we must remember that **this is just our HORSE talking**. We don't need to give in to the horse. We are the rider, a messenger of the King, and we have an important mission to fulfill!

Happy are those who ride their horse and keep it on track. How wonderful will be their lot when they return to the King of kings after 120; what great honor and reward awaits them there! But woe to those who let their horse ride them!

Desires are an Illusion

Do you see these wheels turning when you look away from them at the other wheels?

Our eyes are a tremendous blessing that allow us to perceive the world around us. However our eyes can trick us as well, making us believe that we need things that in reality it may be very bad for us. Let's train ourselves to use our eyes for good and not let them trick us to turn after our hearts desires!



Sotah to Nazir: Turn Inspiration into Deed



The following piece is in honor of R' Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk ZT"L, talmid of the Baal Shem Tov and author of the Sefer Pri Ha'aretz whose Yartzeit was recently on Rosh Chodesh Iyar.

It has been mentioned on the forum in various contexts, that many of us felt disgusted and nauseated the first time that we saw shmutz. Yet somehow we managed to get sucked in and began to have "pleasure" from it. How can this paradox be understood from a Torah perspective?

In Parshas Naso, the section which deals with Nazir is placed immediately after the section which deals with Sotah. Chazal make the connection between the two Mitzvot, and say that "one who witnesses the Sotah in her degradation should prohibit wine to himself by taking a Nazarite vow".

The obvious question is, that the logical assumption would be that having seen the horrific death of a Sotah, a person should be inspired to sin less. Yet the implication is that precisely as a result of this, he is more likely to sin?

Says R' Menachem Mendel ZT"L that inspiration is a double edged knife. On the one hand, watching the death of the Sotah can shock a person and impress upon him the severity of such behavior and actions. On the other hand, the exposure to new knowledge can be detrimental, as it opens up new possibilities to sin. Of course a person's immediate reaction to such a scene is to be inspired and resolve to improve, but eventually the impression wears off and the person is left with more knowledge, and without the inspiration. The result of this can be catastrophic. The only way to preserve the inspiration is by translating thought into action. This is what Chazal meant when they said that one who witnesses the Sotah in her degradation should prohibit

wine to himself by taking a Nazarite vow.

R' Dessler ZT"L explains that the "memory" of the heart has the same mechanism as the mental memory. Just like a person's memory can be triggered by a tiny connection to an event, so too, by associating inspiration with an action, that action will subsequently bring the original inspiration back into focus each time. By taking on the Nazarite vow, he puts the original inspiration into a deed, and this will help him retain the original inspiration.

What we can learn from this, is that whenever we feel inspired, we need to make a new commitment in the area of "deed". Otherwise, the inspiration is like a soul without a body and it will quickly dissipate.

What will you do TODAY to turn your inspiration into DEED?

INSPIRATIONAL IMAGE OF THE WEEK



A Broken Heart



There is a fellow who owns a jewelry store in Israel. One day a nine year old girl walked into the store and said, "I am here to buy

a bracelet." She looked through the glass cases and pointed to a bracelet that was \$3,000. The man behind the counter asked her, "You want to buy that bracelet?"

"Yes," she replied.

"Wow, you have very good taste. Who do you want to buy it for?"

"For my older sister."

"Oh that is so nice!" the storekeeper replied. "Why do you want to buy your older sister this bracelet?"

"Because I don't have a mother or father," the little girl said, "and my older sister takes care of us. So we want to buy her a present, and I'm willing to pay for it." She pulled out of her pocket a whole bunch of coins that totaled just under eight shekels, a little less than two dollars.

The fellow says, "Wow! That's exactly what the bracelet costs!" While wrapping up the bracelet he said to the girl, "You write a card to your sister while I wrap the bracelet." He finished wrapping the bracelet, wiped away his tears, and handed the little girl the bracelet.

A few hours later the older sister entered the store. "I'm terribly embarrassed," she said. "My sister should not have come here. She shouldn't have taken it without paying." "What are you talking about?" the storekeeper asked.

"What do you mean? This bracelet costs thousands of dollars. My little sister doesn't have thousands of dollars – she doesn't even have ten dollars! Obviously she didn't pay for it."

"You couldn't be more wrong," the storekeeper replied. "She paid me in full. She paid seven shekel, eighty agurot, and a

broken heart. I want to tell you something. I am a widower. I lost my wife a number of years ago. People come into my store every single day. They come in and buy expensive pieces of jewelry, and all these people can afford it.

When your sister walked in, for the first time in so very long since my wife had died, I once again felt what love means."

He gave her the bracelet and wished her well.


(The story was told over by Rabbi Go'el Elkarif who said he heard it from the person himself).

We come to the Almighty and we want to buy something very expensive, we want forgiveness and we want Him to help us get rid of our Yetzer Hara. But we cannot afford it. We don't have the merits.

So we come to the Almighty and we empty out our pockets, giving him whatever merits we have, plus promises for the future. I'll try to guard my eyes better, I'll learn an extra five minutes of Torah, I will put up better fences, better filters. But most of all, we can give Him our broken heart.

The Almighty says, "You don't know how long it's been since I've felt what love means." He sees how much we love Him and how much we yearn to improve, and He says, "You know what? You have touched my heart. Here it is, paid in full."

FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH SHMIRAS EINAYIM. NOW IS HARDER THAN EVER!



Being confined to home without work, feeling anxious and stressed, as well as constantly checking our computers and phones, are breeding grounds for the Yetzer Hara.

Sign-Up to GYE's **Viral Chizuk** during these trying times by email and Whatsapp:

GUARDYOUREYES.COM

