Fascinating INSIGHTS

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Final opportunity for "Astonishing Torah Insights about Reincarnation"
Special dedication opportunity. As we have arrived at the final stages before publication, this is the final opportunity for contributions or dedications for the book titled "Astonishing Torah Insights about Reincarnation." Create an eternal merit through Torah with a dedication. Dedications can be given from Maiser money and can be paid out over time in payments. They can be L'Ilui Nishmas, L'Refuah Shleima, an advertisement for a business, for someone trying to find their shidduch, in honor of a special occasion, in honor of a family member or friend or any other dedication that your heart desires. This is in addition to sharing in the merit of the life-changing Torah learned by each reader. For more information or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at valt3285@gmail.com or send a WhatsApp to +972 54 849 5217. Donations can also be given via Zelle with the email address parshadt28@gmail.com or at https://tinyurl.com/2mhd2ed3 by credit card. Any amount is welcome.



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Community Spotlight Where Fascinating Insights is Learned
Chabad of Korea (Seoul, South Korea)



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TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH FASCINATING TORAH INSIGHTS

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Celebration After a Child's Death

The sefer Maamar Mordechai Schwab[1] relates a story about a childless man from the villages who came to a Rav to get a bracha for children. The Rav gave him a bracha and a son was born to him. After some time, the child got sick, and so the father came to the Rav in order that he should daven for the child. The Rav every so often would ask about the welfare of the child. Three weeks later the child passed away. However, they did not tell the Rav, so as not to cause him distress. When the Rav would ask about the welfare of the child, they would answer him as they did in the past, that all is well. This went on for some time, until eventually it was revealed to the Rav. Upon hearing this, the Rav invited all the Torah scholars in the city to a *seudah*, festive meal.

In the middle of the meal, the Rav revealed what really happened: the child who passed away had been a reincarnation of the soul of the famous *ger tzedek*, righteous convert in the time of the Vilna Gaon known as Graf Pototzki,[2] a Polish nobleman who converted to

[1] Volume 1, Maamar 12, p. 60. Otzar Hagilgulim, Rishonim and Achronim, p. 59.

[2] It is related that while Graf Pototzki was being tortured, his tormentors asked him, "Will you take revenge against us in the next world?" He replied: "When I was a child, someone once destroyed my sandcastle. I complained to my father and asked him to punish the person. My father responded, 'Why are you concerning yourself with such trivial and petty matters?' At the time, I thought that when I grew up, I would certainly take revenge. Yet, when I became older, I no longer cared, because the sandcastle was no longer important to me. "So too, if I merit the next world, I will not seek revenge

Judaism. When he had given up his life *Al Kiddush Hashem*, all the souls from the time of the creation of the world until that point gathered together to greet his *neshamah*. They opened up all the *heichalos*, sanctuaries in heaven except one. In order to enter that one, a person needs to be born from a Jewish mother.

It was agreed upon that the *ger tzedek* be reincarnated, this time born to a Jewish mother. However, Beis Din shel Maalah raised a question: maybe this soul will come down to the world and sin. Now he is pure to enter Gan Eden immediately.

The Torah giants of that generation were aware of this matter and they accepted upon themselves to guard this child and the Rav in the story was one of those Rabbanim who took upon himself this responsibility. As a result, he would constantly ask about the welfare of this child. Now that this child who contained the *neshamah* of the *ger tzedek* passed away, the Rav made a *seudah* since the *neshamah* of the *ger tzedek* had its rectification.

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Rav Yitzchak Elchanan Spector's Influence in North Dakota

R' Binyamin Papermaster (1860–1934) was a Lithuanian-born rabbi who spent roughly 45 years serving Jews on the American frontier. He had studied in Slabodka and was trained as a rabbi, a shochet and mohel.

In 1890, the Jews of Fargo, North Dakota, appealed to Rav Yitzchak Elchanan Spector of Kovno for a rabbi. Rav Yitzchak Elchanan specifically selected Papermaster for the mission. R' Papermaster arrived to find only about 15 Jewish settlers and their families in Fargo. His relatives in New York urged him to forget the whole thing and stay in New York. He nevertheless felt that he had accepted a mission from Rav Yitzchak Elchanan and had to fulfill it.



Fargo was too small to support him, so he moved to Grand Forks, where there were approximately 60 Jewish families.

R' Papermaster didn't merely serve Grand Forks. He traveled by horse and buggy to isolated Jewish settlements, sometimes enormous distances, to perform brissim, weddings and funerals, provide kosher meat, bring Pesach supplies, and maintain Jewish life.

One account describes him traveling to Jewish agricultural colonies, sometimes spending weeks there preparing kosher meat and poultry for the winter.

When he passed away in 1934, his funeral was attended not only by rabbis from communities he had helped establish, including Devils Lake, Minot and Williston, but also by Mayor E.A. Fladland who was the serving Mayor of Grand Forks along with Protestant clergy and civic leaders, demonstrating the respect he had earned.

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Where the Towers fell on September 11th

On September 11, 2001, when the North Tower of the Twin Towers was burning, people feared that when it would come crashing down, it could trigger a domino effect, bringing down other buildings throughout Lower Manhattan. Yet the towers collapsed largely within their own footprints rather than toppling outward across the surrounding streets.

In this context, the words הַמָּקוֹם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שְׁאָר אֲבֵלֵי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלָיִם, May Hashem console you among the other mourners of Tzioon and Yerushalayim,[3] take on another profound meaning.

The sheer location of the collapse was astonishing. Despite the enormous size of the towers, their structures did not simply topple outward, sending debris across the surrounding streets. The buildings' material collapsed and became concentrated within or very close to their footprints, rather than spilling over onto the streets and burying everyone alive. The מקום, location of the collapse was a consolation (הַמָּקוֹם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם).



This was one of the miracles המקום, Hashem, performed on that day. הַמָּקוֹם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם:

because the body is just flesh and blood. In fact, I will want to bring my murderer there as well, because through him I merited to attain such an exalted level."

[3] We say these words to a mourner.

may Hashem, who is present in every place, comfort all those who mourn.

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Untouchable Wisdom

The Chofetz Chaim[4] says that although countless generations of Jews have devoted themselves to learning Torah, delving into its words and uncovering its depths, we have still barely begun to fathom the infinite wisdom hidden within it.

In this way we can explain, תורת ה' תמימה משיבת נפש, the Torah of Hashem is perfect, restoring the soul.[5] The Torah remains *temima*, whole and complete as if untouched. Despite the countless generations that have studied it, questioned it, analyzed it, and revealed its many layers of meaning, it is still as though we have barely touched its infinite depth.[6]

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Two Fathers, One Soul

A person's spiritual journey can bring him face-to-face with the very challenge he once failed to overcome. The story of Besuel and Kalba Savua illustrates how a soul can return to confront an earlier mistake.

The Midrash[7] tells us that Besuel, the father of Rivka, wanted to prevent Rivka from marrying Yitzchak. The Rema Mipano[8] writes that Besuel was reincarnated as Kalba Savua who likewise wanted to prevent his daughter from marrying R' Akiva. However, in the end he retracted and agreed to marry her off.[9] Through this reversal, he rectified the soul of Besuel.

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Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of Rabbi Mordechai Friedlander ztz"l for close to five years and received semichah from Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ztz"l. Rabbi Alt has written thousands of Torah articles on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of fourteen fascinating and popular books. His writings, many of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Spanish and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. His shiurim can be found on various websites including Kol Halashon's. Rabbi Alt lectures, writes and teaches, and is passionate about inspiring Jews of all levels of observance. He can be reached at yalt3285@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at +972 54 849 5217.

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[4] See Nidchei Yisrael chapter 43 and Shem Olam chapter 12.
[5] Tehillim 19:8.
[6] See R' Elchonon Wasserman in Kovetz Maamarim V'igros, Volume 1, p. 125.
[7] Breishis Rabba 60:12.
[8] Gilgulei Neshamos, Erech Besuel.
[9] Kesubos 62b-63a.