

פרק א', משנה טו  
הו' מקביל את כל האדם בסבר פנים יפות



A Jew was working in a meat-packing plant in Norway. Towards the end of the day, he went into one of the freezers to do an inspection. The freezer door slipped off its safety latch and closed, trapping the man in the freezer. He tried banging on the door and yelling, but no avail. Most of the workers had already gone home and the sounds of his cries were muffled by the heavy freezer door. He was in the room for five hours and on the verge of death, when suddenly the door opened!! The security guard put his head in and came to his rescue and saved his life. The security guard was later asked why he thought to open that freezer door. He explained, "I have been working here for thirty-five years. Hundreds of workers come to this plant every day. This Jew is the only one who says 'hello' to me in the morning and 'good-bye' in the evening. Today, he said 'hello', but I never heard the 'good-bye'. I wait for that hello and good-bye every day. Knowing I never heard it, I realized that he must be somewhere in the building so I searched for him."



Near the city of Danzig, Poland, there lived a rav who would take a walk every morning. During his walk, he would greet all the people he met with a warm smile and a friendly "Good morning!"

He would regularly exchange greetings with a Polish man.

"Good morning, Herr Mueller!" the rav would call out to the man. "Good morning, Herr Rabbiner!", the man would reply back to him.

The war began. One day, during a selection at Auschwitz, the rav stood on line with hundreds of his Jewish brethren, waiting for the moment when their fates would be decided. Dressed in a striped camp uniform, his head and beard shaven, and starving for food, he looked like a walking skeleton. There was little chance that he'd be chosen to live.

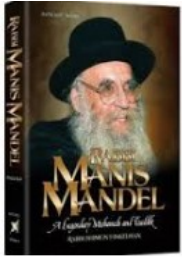
"Right! Left! Left! Left!"

The familiar voice in the distance drew nearer, when suddenly, the rav lifted his eyes and heard his own voice speaking:

"Good morning, Herr Mueller!"

"Good morning, Herr Rabbiner!"

Herr Mueller then pointed to the right - to life. The following day, the rav was transferred to a safer camp, and, ברוך ה', he survived the war.



A man named Meir Orlion met Rabbi Manis Mandel (1916-2006) ,ל"צ, the beloved *mechanech*, at a wedding. More than 45 years earlier, as a child of seven, he had attended Yeshiva of Brooklyn for only seven months. At the wedding, he went over to Rav Mandel and asked, "Do you remember me? My name is Meir Orlion."

Rav Mandel put his hand gently on Meir's shoulder and said loudly, "Meir Nachman'ke", *vus machst du, mein tyereh talmid?!"*

Mr. Orlion was stunned! No one has called him by his middle name since he was in the 3rd grade, and he was only in the school for seven months! How could Rav Mandel have remembered his full name after 45 years?!...



As a young boy, Rabbi Shimshon Sherer would walk through the streets of Boro Park on Shabbos morning together with his father, Rav Moshe Sherer, ל"צ (1921-1998), President of Agudath Israel of America, as they made their way to Shul. Rabbi Sherer would wish a "Gut Shabbos" to every Jew he passed and a "Good Morning" to every gentile.

One Shabbos morning, young Shimshon asked his father, "Daddy, are you running for President of the United States?? Why must you say "Good Morning" to every single person to whom we pass??"

R' Sherer replied, "As you know, when I was a student at Mesivta Torah Vodaath, I had a great privilege of serving as an assistant of sorts to the Gaon and Tzaddik R' Elchonon Wasserman when he visited America in 1938. I first met R' Elchonon when I reported to his room one morning at the Broadway Central Hotel. I greeted the tzaddik with a 'Shalom Aleichem" and then we headed for the elevator to go downstairs.

"As we waited for the elevator, R' Elchonon turned to me and asked, "Vi azoi zocht men 'Gut Morgen' oif English??" (How does one say good morning in English??) I replied, "Very much like we say in Yiddish, 'Good Morning'."

"R' Elchonon then paced back and forth and practiced saying "Good Morning." The elevator arrived and as we entered it, R' Elchonon wished the gentile elevator attendant, "Good Morning." He then turned to me and asked, "*Hob ich gut gezokt??"* ("Did I say it well??").

"And so," concluded R' Moshe Sherer, "I learned from R' Elchonon that saying "Good Morning" to everyone is something that a Jew should do."