



"Life's Little Struggles"

December 2025

As we are about to say good bye to a year gone by and welcome a new year, let us take a moment to reflect. We had moments that made us laugh, we had moments that made us cry. We were given many challenges and those moments we thought that "were done", but here we are and thanks to G-d we made it!

Did you ever notice as we go through life, we are all faced sometimes with certain trials and struggles, and as much as we hate life's challenges, sometimes struggles are necessary, they are the moments in life that actually help us grow. Let me explain with a short "Moshe parable" ...

"The Struggle Inside The Cocoon".....

There was a wonderful old man who loved nature; animals, spiders, insects.... One day, while walking through the woods the nice old man found a cocoon.

Feeling lonely he decided to take the cocoon home to watch its beautiful transformation from a helpless little cocoon to a beautiful butterfly.

He gently placed the cocoon on his kitchen table, and watched over it for days.

Suddenly, on the seventh day the cocoon started to move. It moved frantically! The old man felt sorry

for the little butterfly inside the cocoon. He watched it struggle and struggle and struggle!

Finally, the old man feeling so sorry for the cocooned butterfly rushed to its aide with a surgical scalpel and

gently slit the cocoon, so the butterfly could emerge.

Just one slice was all it took, and the butterfly broke free from its cocoon only to wilt over in a complete motionless state. The old man did not know what to think.

Had he accidentally killed the little butterfly? No, it was still moving a little bit.! Maybe it's sick!

He was dumbfounded, and quite perplexed!

What should I do, he asked? Well, he felt so sorry for the little creature that he decided the best thing he could

do for the butterfly was to place it gently back into its cocoon. He did so, and placed a drop of honey on it to seal the cocoon,

leaving the butterfly to nestle in its natural state. Well, the next day he noticed that the cocoon was moving again. Wow, he said! It moved and moved and struggled and struggled.

Finally, the butterfly broke free from its cocoon and stretched its wings out far and wide.

Big time yawn! Its' beautiful wings were filled with wonderful colors! It looked around and took off!

It was flying! It was so beautiful! The old man was jumping with joy! Wow!

Go Baby, Go! And that wonderful butterfly did just that: it flew and flew till it was almost out of the old man's sight.

What a joy, he exclaimed!

But then he started to think. What did I do wrong by trying to help that beautiful little butterfly out at first?

The old man went into town. found the library, and read every book he could on butterflies and cocoons. Finally, the answer appeared.

The butterfly has to struggle and struggle while inside the cocoon.

That's how it gets its strength. That's just what they are designed to overcome in order to be strong and beautiful.

Well needless to say the old man was pleasantly surprised and somewhat relieved. Now he knows the reason why they do what they do.

It was only his perception that made it appear that the butterfly was having a hard time.

Well, from then on, the old man knew that loving something sometimes means to pray for it and cheer it on!

He realized that G-d was wonderful, and that sometimes appearances aren't what they seem to be.

That we all are beautiful butterflies, even though we sometimes have our apparent struggles in life...End.

And now a bit of sagely wisdom, to make you go hmmmmmm....

An elderly Sage and a soap maker went for a walk together.

The soap maker said, "what good is faith? Look at all the trouble and misery of the world.

Even after years--thousands of years--of teaching about goodness and truth and peace. Still there,

after all the prayers and sermons and teachings. If religion is good and true, why should this be?"

The sage said nothing. They continued walking until he noticed a child playing in the gutter.

Then the Sage said, "Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on

that youngster. Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the world, over all these years, the child is

still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is, after all!" The soap maker protested. "But, Sage, soap cannot do any good unless it is used!" "Exactly!" replied the Sage " So it is with prayer, never stop praying".....Hmmmmm..

Before we close, some quick humor from the "Moshe Files"....."Getting a Physical"

A woman goes to the doctor for her yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basic items.

"How much do you weigh?" she asks. "115," she says. The nurse puts her on the scale. It turns out her

weight is 140 lbs.

The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 8 inches," she says. The nurse checks and sees that she only

measures 5' 5". She then takes the patient's blood pressure and tells the woman it is very high.

"Of course it's high!" she screams, "When I came in here, I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!"...lol

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, best wishes for Season's Greetings, a Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. Thanks for all the Holy work you do on a daily basis. May G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. Amen.

Should you need an ear to listen, or a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

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Check out the Police Chaplains Ministry website: www.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf