



"The Definition of True Love"

June 2025

Recently I was called by one of our members, "Jimmy", and he asked if I could meet him in the Emergency Room as his wife was in a serious accident and she needed serious prayers. I met Jim at the ER, we prayed at his wife's bedside, hugged and chatted with the family for a while. (Thank G-d she recovered nicely.) As I was leaving, Jim reached into his pocket took out a piece of paper from his pocket handed it to me and said "Rabbi, sorry if it will make you cry. Please read it and you will know how I feel this moment and please pass it along". The paper looked like it had spent considerable time in his pocket. I went back to my car, opened the paper and it was a story titled "The Definition of True Love". I read it and could not hold back my emotions, after seeing his wife so banged up and then of him giving me the story. I realized this is a moment in life, that I won't soon forget. Please let me share it with you, and it is okay if you too shed a tear, as it will be a tear of true love. Here it is "The Definition of True Love"

"My parents were married for 55 years. One morning, my mom was going downstairs to make dad breakfast, she had a heart attack and fell. My father picked her up as best he could and almost dragged her into the truck. At full speed, without respecting traffic lights, he drove her to the hospital. When he arrived, unfortunately she was no longer with us. During the funeral, my father did not speak; his gaze was lost. He hardly cried. That night, we, his children joined him, and in an atmosphere of pain and nostalgia, we remembered beautiful anecdotes about Mom. He then asked my brother, a theologian, to tell him where Mom would be at that moment. My brother began to talk about life after death and guesses as to how and where she would be.

My father listened carefully. Suddenly he asked us to take him to the cemetery.

"Dad!" we replied, "it's 11 o'clock at night, we can't go to the cemetery right now!"

He raised his voice a bit, and with a stern glazed look he said: "Don't argue with me, please don't argue with the man who just lost the love of his life, his wife of 55 years."

There was a moment of respectful silence, we didn't argue anymore. We went to the cemetery; we asked the night watchman for permission to go to the spot where she was buried. With a flashlight we reached the tomb. My father touched her casket, got emotional, prayed and told his children, who watched this moving scene: "It was 55 years... you know? No one can talk about true love if they have no idea what it's like to share life with a woman they loved."

He paused and wiped his face. "She and I were together in multiple life's crises. I changed jobs ..." he continued. "We packed up when we sold the house and moved out of town. We shared the joy of seeing our children finish their careers, we mourned the departure of loved one's side by side, we prayed together in the waiting room of some hospitals, we supported each other in pain, we hugged at each family event, and we forgave our mistakes ... Children, now it's gone, and I'm happy do you know why? Please let me explain.

"Because she left before me. She didn't have to go through the agony and pain of burying me, of being left alone after my departure. I will be the one to go through that pain, and for that, I thank G-d. I loved her so much that I wouldn't have liked her to suffer if I went first..."

When my father finished speaking, my brothers and I had tears streaming down our faces. We hugged him, and he comforted us, "It's okay, we can go home, it's been a good day." End of story.

That night I understood what true love is; It is far from romanticism, it does not have much as to do with the physical relationship (which is very important), rather it is linked to working with each other, to complement each other, to care for each other and, above all, to the true love that two souls are really capable and committed to really loving each other. Fortunate are those who have been able to experience this blessing in life. And for those who have not, let us remember one of Moshe's most favorite lines, "you can't turn the clock back and make a new beginning, but we can all start today and make a better ending".

Some points to ponder about life, old time advice, and still very applicable today:

- 1) Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- 2) Words that soak into your ears are whispered.... not yelled.
- 3) Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- 4) You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- 5) In life, every path has a few puddles.
- 6) The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- 7) Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- 8) Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- 9) Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- 10) If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging'.
- 11) Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got, and that is just the way it is!
- 12) The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every morning.
- 13) Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- 14) Everyday life is a gift, enjoy your present.
- 15) Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to G~d.

Before we close a little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling:

1. The Optimistic Son: A man was trying to teach his young son the evils of alcohol. He put one worm in a glass of water and another worm in a glass of whiskey.

The worm in the water lived, while the one in the whiskey curled up and died. "All right, son," asked the father, "what does that show you?"

"Well, Dad, it shows that if you drink alcohol, you will not have worms." LOL

2. In school, a young kid "Douglas" was being evaluated for his intelligence and for dealing with challenging questions, was asked by the following question by the school Doctor

'If a train was coming down the hallway toward you, what would you do? Douglas replied, 'I would get in my helicopter and fly away!

The Doctor then asked, 'Where did you get a helicopter from? Douglas replied, 'The same place you got that train!' LOL (Send me some of YOUR favorites ...LOL)

Last but not least, as we celebrate and give honor this month to those special people in our lives, our dad's and those who are a father figure to us. We wish a special Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers. Thanks for your love, support and always being there when we need you most. We appreciate you and are blessed to have you in our lives.

To My Flock Please Note: G-d willing, hoping to make a pilgrimage to the Holy land sometime in early summer. Some have the custom of writing a prayer note which is placed among the stones in the Holy Western Wall. As we have done in the past it would be my honor and privilege to take your prayer notes and requests and bring them to the Holy Wall with me. My snail mail address is on the bottom. Please make sure to get them to me by June 15th.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain,
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