

Parshas Behar. We're right before ל"ג בעומר, which is a very joyous יום טוב. It has to do with כלל ישראל's finding itself with ישועות ונחמות. And פרשת בהר has a lot of significance in that it represents the shidduch between הקדוש ברוך הוא and כלל ישראל. We know that one of the most important underpinnings of any relationship, which a shidduch is the ultimate relationship, is אני לדודי ודודי לי - What can I do for you and what can you do for me? That is בהר, and that is שמיטה for that matter. Even though we might think שמיטה is just about sitting back and doing nothing, in reality, we are coming closer to Hashem by stepping away from our גשמיות and focusing more on רוחניות. And of course, that the poor can come in and take whatever they want. So there are a lot of aspects here which tie in פרשת בהר to a shidduch, and the following story from "The Weekly Virt" therefore is relevant.

A widow, who we're going to call her Mrs. Mandel, had a daughter was undergoing treatment in Tel HaShomer hospital in Tel Aviv, and requested Shabbos accommodations in the Rachashei Lev chesed apartments. "I know I will cry a lot. I would really prefer to be alone," she added. The director of Rachashei Lev, Rabbi Reuven Gesheid, generally got numerous calls a week from many people and tried to accommodate several men at one location and several ladies at another multi-bedroom apartment. "I'll see what I can do," he said noncommittally. Half an hour later, a girl called. "My relative is in the hospital and asked me to stay with her over Shabbos. Could I possibly sleep in the apartment near the hospital?" Rabbi Gesheid did not think too long before agreeing. After all, how could he turn away this girl just because the other guest wanted privacy? He called Mrs. Mandel and informed her of the turn of events. "We both have an obligation to help this girl," he said. "She's trying to do a מצוה. Who are we to stop her?" Mrs. Mandel was not particularly happy with the decision but realized she had no choice.

A few weeks later, she called Rabbi Gesheid again. "Mazel Tov! My son just became a חתן, thank you Rabbi Gesheid!" she said. "Mazel Tov!" he cautiously replied. "But why are you thanking me?" "You were the shadchan!" she exclaimed. "The girl you allowed to share the Shabbos apartment with me was the sweetest girl I ever met. Every time I wept, she came over and comforted me. She spoke so softly with such wisdom. Right away, I wanted her for my son and Baruch Hashem, it happened. I thought I would be better off having my privacy and sleeping alone. Little did I know that what I thought would be a discomfort was the vehicle by which Hashem sent the long-awaited shidduch for my son." I thought that was such an adorable story, I could not resist but share that with you.

