



## STORY OF THE WEEK (By Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

\*\*\*\*\**The Vorka Rebbe softens the heart of a stingy rich Yid*\*\*\*\*\*

Harav Hatzadik Reb Yitzchok Kalish of Vorka זצוק"ל [5539-5608] was a Talmid of Reb Simcha Bunim Bonhart, Rebbe of Peshischa. He was also a close friend of the Chidushei Harim of Gur. Both worked tirelessly to help other Yidden. Reb Yitzchok was renowned to have an influence on many people. Even assimilated Jews formed a close bond with the Rebbe. The Rebbe used to travel often to Warsaw to be with his Chassidim for Shabbos. Once, a chosid of the Rebbe who was very poor and had to marry off a child came to the Rebbe with a problem. "I have a cousin who is very wealthy and is able to help me with money," said the chosid, "yet, his servants won't allow anyone to come near him!" "How much money do you need?" asked the Rebbe. As soon as the chosid named a sum of one hundred rubles and gave his cousin's address, the Rebbe himself was off to the rich cousin's house. "With the help of Hashem, we will get one hundred rubbles from your cousin." said the Rebbe.

"Who is asking to see my master?" asked the servant at the door. In a few moments, the servant returned to say that his master had no dealings with the Rebbe of Vorka. Hence, the Rebbe returned empty-handed to the chosid at the host's house. "One hundred rubles is not simple to get. We must have Bitachon and faith that Hashem will help us!" said he to the dismayed chosid. The next day the Rebbe again went and knocked on the wealthy man's door. This time the rich cousin himself answered the door. Upon seeing his visitor, with great anger he shouted at the Rebbe to leave him alone, and slammed the door shut. Once again, the Rebbe placated the chosid and promised him that with Hashem's help they will have the money a day later. Sadly, the story repeated itself the next day again. The Rebbe knocked, "Reb Yid," yelled the enraged cousin "either you will leave peacefully or I will throw you out!" Calmly, the Rebbe went back to the awaiting chosid. Although he hadn't succeeded yet, the Rebbe reassured the chosid that soon he would have the needed amount of money. The chosid believed his Rebbe and promised to be patient.

Meanwhile, in Warsaw there was a Jewish activist named Mattias Rosen, who even though was an assimilated Jew, helped many Yidden. This Mr. Rosen had a special respect for the Vorka Rebbe and would "go through fire and water" to help him. It so happened, that Mr. Rosen and the Chosid's

**A special Mazel Tov to my grandson Yitzchok Kessler נ"י on his Bar Mitzvah this Shabbos. To my son in law Reb Chaim Mayer שליט"א and my Mechuten Reb Binyamin Kessler שליט"א and to my dear father Reb Lazer Klitnick שליט"א**

rich cousin frequented the same club. Proudly, the cousin told Mr. Rosen how a Rebbe came to him thrice for Tzedaka, and what a treatment he received! Upon hearing that it was the Vorka Rebbe, Mr. Rosen fired back: "Do you know who you started up with? If you don't go soon to beg forgiveness, I am afraid for your life! Besides, I will not talk to you again until you beg forgiveness from the Rebbe. You should give him whatever he asks from you!" The rich cousin became pale and frightened realizing the seriousness of his offence. "How can I ask forgiveness now?" he asked. "The Rebbe is a warm and forgiving person. Send a coach to pick up the Rebbe, and he will come to you," advised him Mr. Rosen.

The next day a coach wagon stopped at the home of the Rebbe's host. A servant came out to bring his master's bidding, kindly requesting the Rebbe to return to the wealthy man's house. As predicted, the Rebbe consented and went along with the servant. On the way to the rich man, the Rebbe thought to himself that although initially he was only going to ask for 100 rubles, the hassle and belittlement he went through, deserves an extra hundred rubles. Additionally, the Rebbe thought, one hundred rubles would barely cover the chosid's needs, but with two hundred rubles, there will be a comfortable chasuna and a bit left over for the chosid to live on.

When the Rebbe arrived, the rich cousin begged for the Rebbes forgiveness, with tears streaming down his face. Now, the man was ashamed to have treated the Vorka Rebbe the way he did. Now, he was willing to give as much Tzedaka to the Rebbe as would request. "I forgive you," replied the Rebbe. "The truth is that I wanted you to help your cousin with one hundred rubles to marry off his child, but after all that transpired I'm requesting you give two hundred rubles for the cause!"

- "Of course, I will bring the Rebbe the amount right away," exclaimed the relieved tycoon. Two hundred rubles exchanged hands and the Rebbe thanked the man. -

"Your patience and Bitachon in Hashem was rewarded with receiving double your request," explained the Rebbe. The Rebbe handed over the enormous sum to his chosid. The Rebbe wasn't swayed by the arrogance of a rich person. When time comes to help a fellow Yid, we must do all we can to assist and not be turned off by small obstacles.

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