

He knew this was the straw that broke the camel's back! His father made obvious his disappointment with him and his shenanigans for weeks now, but had refrained from administering to him any severe punishment. However, now that his actions had endangered his life, he knew the punishment would be severe. Upon his father's return home, he informed him that he would be confiscating the precious bike he could not imagine living without, for three months as punishment for his actions. Upon hearing this, Yanky burst out crying and to his surprise was joined by his father who hugged him as their tears mingled together.

In last week's Parshah, we learned that the Cheruvim in the Beis HaMikdash were shaped in the form of a boy and a girl facing each other, symbolizing Hashem's loving relationship with Klal Yisroel.

The Gemara (Bava Basra 99a) tells us that when the Beis HaMikdash still stood, when Klal Yisroel would do the will of Hashem, the Cheruvim would face each other, and when they did not do the will of Hashem, the Cheruvim turned their backs to each other.

The Rishonim ask: If when Klal Yisroel wasn't fulfilling the will of Hashem the Cheruvim would turn away from each other, then why, at the time of the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash, does the Gemara elsewhere (Yoma 55a) state: When the gentiles entered the Sanctuary they saw the Cheruvim clinging to one another."?

Perhaps we can suggest an explanation based on our opening Mashal. True, when we sinned while the Beis HaMikdash still stood, Hashem showed His displeasure with us symbolized by the Cheruvim turning away from each other. However, when He was forced, for our benefit, to meet out the ultimate punishment of destroying the Beis Hamikdash, overcome with sorrow over the pain of His dear children for whom He had created the entire universe just for their benefit, He made sure to show us His great love as well. This is so that we may understand how much it pains Him to have to administer this bitter pill, even if solely for our own good.

