



Noach / נח

On Top Of The World

Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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"Ari and Malky, hurry up!" called Anshel Holtzbacher. "We're going to be late for the rocket launch!"

Ari and Malky hurried down the stairs and met Totty by the door. Holtzbacher Industries had partnered with AMZ Powow to form a new space tourism company and the Holtzbachers were going to fly on the new rocket's very first flight!

"Wait, I don't have my flashlight!" Ari said, rummaging through his pockets. "Malky, did you put it back in my room after you borrowed it?"

"Oh no, I'm sorry," Malky said apologetically. "I think I accidentally left it in school."

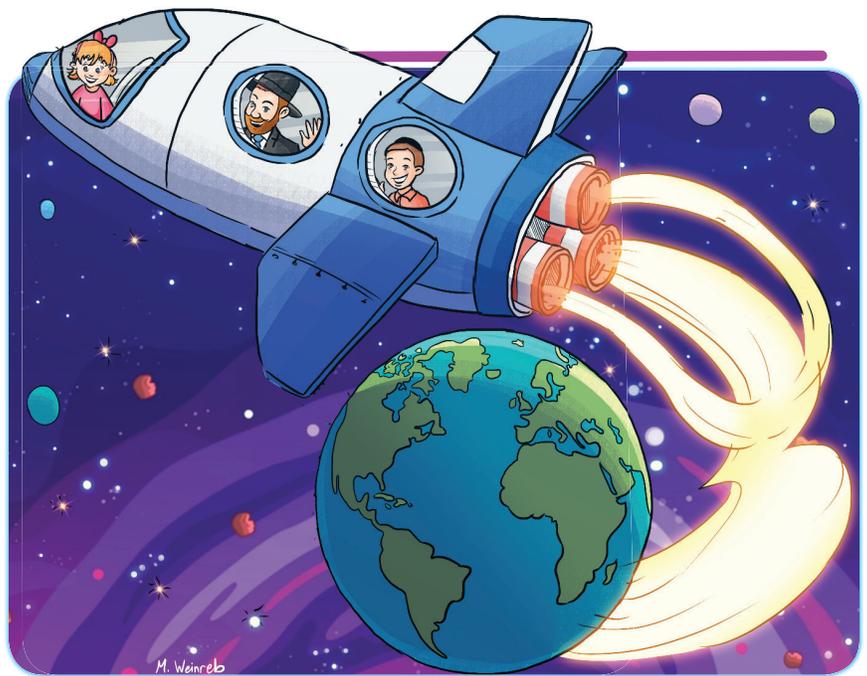
"Left it in school???" exclaimed Ari. "But I **NEED** it!"

"Come on kids," Totty urged them. "We don't have time. We need to get going now!"

"Why do you need a flashlight for a spaceflight?" asked Malky. "I'm sure the rocket has lights and space is so dark, your little flashlight isn't going to help you see out the window any better."

"Yeah but I wanted to take it with me so every time I use my flashlight I can tell people that it was in outer space!"

Ari and Malky continued bickering over the flashlight the entire ride. Once at the launch pad, however, workers began prepping everyone for launch, and there wasn't much time to talk.



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Soon Totty, Ari, and Malky were all strapped into the rocket, as a flight-prep worker gave them one last smile before closing the hatch, sealing them inside.

“Wait, Totty,” said Malky, worried. “Where are the astronauts?”

“**We** are the astronauts,” Totty said with a reassuring smile. “This rocket is completely automated. It flies 100% on its own. And there are many workers in mission control to help us if *chash veshalom* something goes wrong.”

Even so, the Holtzbachers all said *Tefillas Haderech* with extra *kavanah*. Ari and Malky trembled with excitement in their seats - in a few minutes they were going to fly to an altitude of over 1,000 miles, orbit the Earth faster than a speeding bullet, and return for a landing at the launch site in less than two hours!

“**5...4...3...2...1... LIFTOFF!!!**” came the voice over the radio. The Holtzbachers were pushed back into their seats with tremendous force as the rocket came alive and thundered through the air into space.

Looking out the window, the Earth quickly shrank away from them. It was an incredible sight! Soon they could no longer make out any objects below, just the beautiful blue and green of the incredible world that Hashem created.

“Main engine cutoff!” came the call over the radio a few minutes later, and the spacecraft went silent, as the engines turned off and they continued to coast at tremendous speeds deep into space.

“You can take off your seatbelts now!” Totty told the kids.

Unbuckling their seatbelts, the three Holtzbachers floated out of their seats and around the spaceship. Everyone huddled around the windows, unable to take their eyes off of the breathtaking beauty of the Earth below.

“Isn’t it incredible, Malky?” asked Ari in wonder.

“Yes, it’s the most beautiful sight I’ve ever seen!” she replied.

“I’m sorry for getting upset at you about my flashlight,” Ari said apologetically. “It’s really not that important.”

“Don’t worry about it,” smiled Malky, not turning away from the window. “But why did you suddenly stop caring about it?”

“Well, looking down at the Earth, seeing just blue and green, it’s as if there’s nothing in the world but us,” Ari explained. “I realized that something silly like a flashlight really isn’t that important. I care much more about being friends with my sister than whether I brought my flashlight.” - “And besides, I can tell my friends that my watch was in space,” he added with a grin.

“You know, Ari,” Totty said. “Noach and his family experienced the same thing when they came out of the *Teivah*.”

“Because the world was destroyed and there was nothing left?” Ari asked.

“Exactly. They came out of the *Teivah* to a scene of complete destruction. There was literally nothing on the Earth. Hashem brought the *Mabul* to remind us that it’s not the physical things that we have that are important, but rather the *Mitzvos* and *maasim tovim* that we do. Every single person leaves the world one day, and nobody gets to take anything with them except their real accomplishments - doing *Ratzon Hashem*.”

Just then the radio came to life. “Return to your seats and fasten your seatbelts - re-entry is in five minutes!”

As the Holtzbachers floated back to their seats and strapped themselves in for the return to Earth, Ari turned to his father.

“Thank you Totty for taking us on this amazing trip and teaching me this important lesson. Learning it this way is much more fun than a *mabul*!”

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

One of the lessons from the *mabul* is that the whole world is not all that important, it can be destroyed in an instant. What matters is our *Avodas Hashem* and how we get along with others.



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