



## A Story for the Shabbos Table

## סיפורי הבעל שם טוב

### WE DAVEN FOR MOSHIACH EVERY DAY

*On Parshas Tazria-Metzora, 20 years ago, the Rebbe spoke about the importance of learning about Moshiach and hastening the coming of Moshiach. In this connection we bring this story.*

Reb Volf Kitzes, a Chosid of the Baal Shem Tov, was finally on his way to Eretz Yisroel. Before he left, the Baal Shem Tov told him, "If anyone on your way to Eretz Yisrael asks you a question, think carefully before you answer."

In those days, the journey to Eretz Yisrael by ship, would take many weeks. Whenever the ship would reach an island, it would stop in order to fill up on food and other things they needed. The passengers were allowed to get off the ship and go around the island, but as soon as they heard the ship's horn blow, they had to rush back to the ship, to continue their journey.

One day, there was a stop, and Reb Volf Kitzes got off the boat. When it was time for Mincha, he davened. He was concentrating so much on his davening, that he did not hear the ship's horn blowing. By the time he finished davening and went to look for the ship, he realized he was too late. The ship had already left.

Reb Volf wandered around the island for a bit until he noticed a hut in the forest. He knocked on the door and was so happy to see that the man who lived there was a Yid. The Yid told him. "Don't worry. Ships come by here all the time and you will be able to continue on your way. In the meantime, Shabbos is coming and you are welcome to be my guest."

On the day after Shabbos, a boat actually came to the island, and Reb Volf was going to go on it. Before he left, his host said to him, "Tell me, how are the Yidden in golus?"

Reb Volf was in a big rush to get to the ship and he answered in a hurry, "Boruch Hashem, Hashem takes care of them." And he hurried off to catch the ship.

When he was on the ship, Reb Volf realized that he forgot about what the Baal Shem Tov had told him, and he just answered his host quickly, without thinking about it. He decided that the next time the ship stops, he will get off and take a ship going back to the Baal Shem Tov.

When he came back, he had a Yechidus with the Baal Shem Tov, who asked him. "Did you do what I told you?" Reb Volf told the Baal Shem Tov everything that happened, and asked what he could do to correct his mistake.

The Baal Shem Tov told him that by coming back without seeing Eretz Yisrael, that was enough Teshuvah for him, and then he told Reb Volf what this whole thing was about. Avraham Avinu complained to Hashem about his children and asked Hashem why the Yidden are still in Golus and suffer so much.

Hashem answered him that it's not so bad. They don't suffer so much in golus. And if you want proof, ask a Yid who never lies and only tells the truth. Ask Reb Volf Kitzes. So it was arranged that Avraham Avinu should be your host... and you know the rest of the story.

If you would have thought to add in a few words, saying how much the Yidden wait for Moshiach, and how they daven every day for Moshiach to come, who knows, Moshiach might have already come by now."

*[Taken from The Storyteller vol. 2 page 112. see there for more details.]*