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The Importance Of Amen

There was once a great Rabbi named Rebbe Mordechai Yaffe, who lived in Prague, (the most famous of his sefarim is the Levush.) He once got a letter from the city of Posen to be the chief rabbi, but he said that he wasn't worthy yet because he still wanted to learn how to establish the calendar. The Levush had to first go to Venice and see the Great Rabbi Yitzchak Abuhab who knew the calculations on how to make the calendar. He merited to learn from this rabbi and master it and wrote a book discussing it.

One of the times that the Levush was by Rav Yitzchak Abuhab his son was in the house and took a fruit and made a bracha and the Levush, who was engrossed in his learning, did not answer Amen. Rabbi Abuhab saw this and told the Levush to leave immediately and that he is placed in Cherem. (When you are in Cherem no one can talk to you, you cannot be counted in a minyan or get an aliyah.) So after the thirty days, the Levush came to his Rabbi and asked Rebbe what did I do that I deserved such a punishment? So the Rabbi answered, I love you more than I love my own son but that day when a Bracha was made in your presence and you did not answer Amen, in Shamayim there was a death sentence on you, and I had to take it off so I put you in Cherem. But let this be a lesson to you! Missing Amen is THAT important!

Rabbi Yitzchak says to the Levush I will only forgive you on one condition. You are now starting your career as a Rabbi, I want you to promise me that wherever you go you will tell over the following story: In Spain there is a certain city where the king was a great anti-semitic, and he would do whatever he can to get decrees against the Jews. There was one wealthy influential Jew whom the king enjoyed his company, and when the Jews were in trouble they would send this wealthy Jew to save them.

One time a certain decree was made against the Jews and they went to this influential Jew to go speak to the king, The guy said but I got to daven Mincha so they told him lets go, the Jewish people are in trouble... so he decided he will pray at the palace. He sits down and starts to talk to the king and sees the king is in a good mood. Suddenly, a priest comes in who came along way to see the king and gets on his knees and starts to kiss the ground that the king walked on and starts to praise the king. So the Jew saw that the priest isn't stopping anytime soon so he decided that he was going to go to the side and pray Mincha, when the priest finished he said and now we are all going to answer AMEN and they

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all answered AMEN and he said did someone here not answer? So they said we all did...and he saw the Jew standing to the side and said who is he, and they said oh he is a Jew and he is praying now. I have a tradition from the church that if everyone answers Amen to this long blessing it all comes true now that one person didn't answer the king doesn't get the blessing.

The king was furious and ordered the Jew to be beheaded!!! And so it was! The Jews heard about this and were confused. What happened? This guy was a Tzaddik! One of his friends fasted three days to be able to get a dream from this guy to find out what happened. The guy came to him in a dream and told him not to worry, I am in Gan Eden, but what happened was that when I was younger a young boy made a bracha of Hamotzei next to me and I didn't answer Amen, and death sentence was made in Shamayim for me, but I was saved. The angels told Hashem that if a king of flesh and blood reacts like this to someone not answering Amen to his blessing all the more so Hashem...and I was taken out of this world...Rabbi Yitzchak told his student the Levush let this be a lesson for you even one AMEN you cannot miss, Amen is THAT important!!!