

The Daf Ha Yomi

Nachlas Tzvi cites an inspirational story about Horav Meir Shapiro, z.l., the Lubliner Rav and founder of the Daf HaYomi, system of studying one folio of Talmud every day. The Lubliner Rav was a brilliant scholar whose reputation was worldwide. He would constantly attribute his overwhelming success to his mother. His father, in speaking about her, would quote Shlomo HaMelech's pasuk in Eishas Chayil, "Many daughters have amassed achievement, but you surpassed them all." He would supplement this by saying, "Her love for Torah which burns within her produced an unparalleled fruit: She devoted her son to Torah from an early age." When Rav Meir grew into adulthood he would often relate the following incredible incident that occurred when he was seven years old.

One day shortly after Pesach in 1894, Rav Meir noticed his mother weeping bitterly. He immediately asked her what was wrong. She informed him that prior to Pesach she had invited a great Torah scholar from a nearby city to teach him. She had even agreed on the fee of three hundred rubles, which was a large sum at the time, and he had not arrived. It was already two days after Yom Tov and the melamed, teacher, was not yet here. She explained to him, "You should know, my son, that every day that goes by without Torah study is an irretrievable loss. Perhaps I did not offer him enough money. While the sum may constitute an incredible amount of money for us, it is but a small sacrifice for us to offer so that you will study Torah." Shortly thereafter, the teacher arrived. For the next six years, he devoted himself fully to teaching Torah to this budding Torah scholar, whose brilliant scholarship and unparalleled leadership ability would inspire the Torah world.