



HESPED: Samuel Marks

The late Harry Secombe used to sing a song entitled "I walk with G-d".

My father used to say "G-d walks with me".

We are taught that during the month of Nissan we are not supposed to deliver a Hespel but I wish to try and give a flavour of what some may call "one of life's characters" - my father (mahareini kaporat mishkavo)

With this in mind It is perhaps appropriate that Dad passed away the week we commenced reading Pirkei Avot which contains many ethical teachings of the way we should behave AND Dad lived up to these.

The 2nd Mishnah tells us that the world was founded on 3 things:-

- *Al Ha Torah - on Torah*
- *V al Havoda - on service of the Almighty (as mentioned by Rev Sklan in the shul)*
- *V al Gemilut Hasadim - on acts of lovingkindness.*
- *The Rambam explains*
- *Torah - Knowledge of your faith*
- *Ha Avoda - fulfilment of Mitzvot*
- *Gemilut Hasadim - exemplary character traits*

Dad had all these characteristics but it is perhaps the last one which sums him up the best. The word Chesed goes beyond normal boundaries, beyond just being a charitable man.

"Acts of Kindness are greater than charity since they can be done for both Rich and poor whilst charity can be given only to the poor

Charity can only be done with ones money whilst acts of kindness can be performed both personally and with ones money" (R Yonah)

The literal meaning of Gemilut Hasadim is "repaying the favour" . As Rabbi A C Feuer put it when someone does a favour for someone they have never met before he is repaying the favours that Hashem has done for him.

Dad (together with my dear mother) did not just give to "established causes"; he did not just give where he received Kovod (I have heard a number of examples where Rochelle & I did not know of help he had given - including one referred to by Harry Ellis in Shul earlier today. Also on Shabbat Chol Hamoed I was told by someone my father had helped him to publish a Book but refused to have his name included in the credits).



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He also thought about things that would put a smile on someone's face. Many years ago I took him to see his elderly Aunt in an Old Age home in Manchester. He took her a bunch of offlowers but noted (as we walked through the Lounge) the disappointment on the faces of some of the other residents.

What did he do? - After he left his Aunt and were on the way home on the way home we went to the nearby Garage & he bought all their stock of flowers. He went back to the home & distributed them to all the other old ladies sitting in the Lounge - It gave them - and him - a great deal of pleasure.

Mum & Dad had an open home. In the book that Zara prepared for dad's 95th. Birthday in November Ashley told the story of one Pesach when we came back to Shul in Bournemouth and were preparing the table for Kiddush. There was a Knock on the door and a guy with a beard appeared. Without even checking who it was Dad shouted "come in & join us for Kiddush". The man stood there confused & asked "would you like to but the newspaper?" Martin Luther King once said "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase" .

Dad used to tell us that Hashem placed him on this earth with a job to do and when he wants to talk to him personally he will call him (◆ he also used to say that Hashem did not want him upstairs as he would cause to much trouble!!!).

Dad, After 95 years that day has come and you are now climbing the staircase for your chat at the Kisei HaKavod.

The example you have set to Rochelle & I as well as your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren is an inspiration to us all and we all hope we can live up to a small percentage of what you achieved

Leich V'shalom Yavo V'shalom

Yehi zicharon l'baruch

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Grandpa Sam Marks Zara Brooks

How does one start to begin to describe the feelings and emotions that we all have about you and for you?

I have so many wonderful memories of proudly walking into Bournemouth Shul knowing that you would be the one marching around and making sure everything went to plan - you never sat still for one minute and would be pacing the carpet of Wooten gardens Shul for the whole morning.



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It is hard to describe the feelings that I have of getting dressed On Yom Tov mornings because grandpa would be cross if we were too late and going into what I considered to be your Shul where you truly were the energy and soul of the Shul. Even as you got older and well into your eighties you were given the honour of opening the aron hakodesh for neilah where you stood for over an hour when not a drop had passed your lips.

I remember always wanting to sit on your lap for benching and to sit next to you at Seder night - a true honour which I realised at a very young age. I remember so clearly how you spoke about hashem - you would tell us all - "people say they walk with G-d what I say is that HE walks with me and guides me and tells me what to do" - you always said when the good L-rd calls me I'm ready - and you always added that HE didn't want you up there because you would cause too much havoc!

Tsedaka was your way of life and you have imbued that to all your family. The certificates that surround this home are really just a Small testimony to the huge financial and philanthropic deeds that you have done. I remember years ago you talking about the Alyn hospital in Jerusalem and telling me not to Go there as it was really a traumatic place for a young person to see - but I know that you would go and sit on the floor and play with the children as you did in numerous emunnah children's homes.

I was witness to many an occasion where you had been invited to open a Room, a hall, a medical centre, an ambulance, a dedication of life saving equipment where you had no airs and graces and where others might have felt intimidated by our surroundings by the illness or the children that were suffering you didn't.

I remember very clearly you telling me that your money was not yours - that it did not belong to you but rather was given to you by G-d to distribute to those who need it. How difficult it is for most of us to part with our hard earned money but your perspective - that it is not yours to keep is so unique - I wonder whether one has to go through a trauma like you did in the during be 2nd world war that allowed you to have such a unique and selfless perspective?

You felt G-d had given you a purpose - you felt that he had personally plucked you from the depths of human horror. You are a fighter, a survivor - the last few years have shown us that but although the details of your time during captivity are somewhat sketchy as you buried that deep inside it manifested itself in other ways - a drive to succeed, a drive to give to others

and an absolute unshakeable faith in the Almighty as you called Him. That emunnah that you have is so deep it penetrates through the hearts, minds and souls of your family. We are who we are - a Torah committed and tsedaka giving family because you were who you were and you taught us how to live a life on a correct and true path.



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They say that during the week of shiva that soul hovers between shamayim and are?tz and for this reason we should always be careful with our words - I believe that part of your soul rests deep within every member of your family, every friend and stranger you knowingly and unknowingly helped - every child whose life you improved with day care centres, nurseries, children's homes after school programmes and equipment - every person who received better medical care because of your equipment, every soldier who was better protected with new equipment, every patient who was treated with your ambulance through Magen David Adom and any patient who received quicker and more efficient care because of the medically equipped motorbike you donated, helping to build the Bournemouth mikva the cornerstone of Jewish continuity or sourcing and securing for the Jewish community the Bournemouth cemetery to complete the cycle of Jewish life.

Within all of this the light continues to shine and the neshama continues to reap rewards here on earth. And yet within all this - you knew how to laugh and were often outrageously inappropriate - you had been heard to tell people who came to ask of you for money for their ten children - you would tell them that you would prefer to buy them a television which would perhaps stop them having anymore they couldn't afford - you would happily say that from the word 'woman' w stood for wicked o for obstinate m for manipulative - I'm still trying to remember what the a and the n stood for but it was definitely not complimentary! And yet we all knew that you were joking - with grandma at your side your relationship was complete.

You were the regesh - the emotion to her as the seichal - the common sense - and you need both the regesh and the seichal in a complimentary form to provide a unique working and accomplished relationship. It is the small things that i would like to remember most - the whistling noise you made with your tongue as you reloaded the dishwasher after it had already been stacked but not to your liking and the way i would watch you shave in the morning humming to yourself.

At one of your many many parties and it is important to mention that you celebrated every single milestone, every birthday and anniversary seemed to hold such significance that you spoke about how grandma 'put you back together' after the war - it is only now in recent months that i have started to read books about the Japanese prisoners of war that i can start to appreciate the true horrors that you survived. You believed that like Avraham avinu it was all a test from G-d and this strength of character and utter belief in hashem enabled you to rebuild your life, continue and create a successful property business founded on principles of good faith and a good name - a Shem Tov and most importantly continue the Jewish people - you have six grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren and there will PG be more.

You held the respect of your family and those around you and when we were still keeping 2nd seder night in Israel just for you - we all did it happily as we knew it made you happy. It is hard to describe the complete influence that people have on our lives and for each of your



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family members it is different and personal but from me and for my family you have been an overwhelming influence in my yahadut, my faith, my Aliya and my charity choices. In the last five years you lost the power of speech for the most part but what you never lost was your ability to doven. i was here in Bournemouth around 6 weeks ago and you were already quite frail and would only say 'go away' but after we had eaten shabbat lunch we began to bench and for the entire duration you joined in not faltering on a single word. They say that music is in a different part of the brain and I'm sure that's true and is the more rational explanation but I believe that really you had just decided to communicate only with hashem and to save your words for words of prayer.

a person who runs to do just, good, and kind deeds attains - life, success and honour. To grandma, mum and uncle David I wish you all a long life a Chaim arucim. but mostly my hope and my belief is that you grandpa will go on the wings of eagles speedily to your Maker who I know with a full heart is waiting with opens arms and baited breath to welcome you to His Kingdom.

Zara Brooks