

Hassidic Jewish Story of Mordecai

Once upon a time, there was a very pious Jewish couple. They had married with great love and the love never died. Their greatest hope was to have a child so their love could walk the earth with joy.

Yet there were difficulties. And since they were very pious, they prayed and prayed and prayed. With that, along with considerable other efforts, lo and behold the wife conceived. When she conceived, she laughed louder than Sarah laughed when she conceived Isaac. And the child leapt in her womb more joyously than John leapt in the womb of Elizabeth when Mary visited her. And nine months later there came rumbling into the world a delightful little boy.

They named him Mordecai and the sun and the moon were his toys. He was rambunctious, zestful, gulping down the days and dreaming through the nights. He grew in age and wisdom and race until it was time to go to the synagogue and learn the Word of God. Mordecai would be an autumn leaf in winter's wind. He listened wide-eyed.

Yet the next day he never arrived at the synagogue. Instead, he found himself in the woods swimming in the lake and climbing the trees.

When he came home at night, the news had spread throughout the small village. Everyone knew of his shame. His parents were beside themselves. They did not know what to do.

So they called in the behavior modificationists who modified Mordecai's behavior, so there was no behavior of Mordecai that was not modified. Nevertheless, the next day he found himself in the woods, swimming in the lake and climbing the trees.

So they called in the psychoanalysts, who unblocked Mordecai's blockages, so there were no more blocks for Mordecai to be blocked by. Nevertheless, the next day he found himself in the woods, swimming in the lake and climbing the trees.

His parents grieved for their beloved son. There seemed to be no hope.

It was at this time that the great rabbi visited the village. And the parents said, "Ah! Perhaps the rabbi." So they took Mordecai to the rabbi and told him their tale of woe. The rabbi bellowed, "Leave the boy with me and I will have a talking to him."

Mordecai's parents were terrified. So he would not go to the synagogue but to leave their beloved son with this lion of a man... But they had come this far and so they left him.

Now Mordecai stood in the hallway and the great rabbi stood in his parlor. He beckoned, "Boy, come

here." Trembling, Mordecai came forward.

And then the great rabbi picked him up and held him silently against his heart.

His parents came to get him, and they took Mordecai home. The next day he went to the synagogue to learn the Word of God. And when he was done, he went to the woods. And the Word of God became one with the word of the woods which became one with the word of Mordecai. And he swam in the lake. And the Word of God became one with the word of the lake which became one with the word of Mordecai. And he climbed the trees. And the Word of God became one with the word of the trees which became one with the word of Mordecai.

And Mordecai himself grew up to become a great man. People came to him who were seized with inner panic and with him they found peace. People came to him who were without anybody and with him they found communion. People came to him with no exits and with him they found a way out.

And he often said, "I first learned the Word of God when the great rabbi held me silent against his heart.

Taken from Conroy, Maureen, Experiencing God's Tremendous Love; Entering into Relational Prayer, pg 31-33, 1988, reprint 2009