

## Don't Ignore Reality

[Inbox / Issue 797]

I feel sorry for the son of A.A., the lady from Toronto, who wants to cancel her subscription due to articles on abuse and addiction.

I, on the other hand, almost canceled my subscription in the past for the opposite reason: The articles presented often seemed like an air-brushed, idyllic view of the *frum* world, as if all the men want nothing more than to spread Torah knowledge and all the women are happy and calm, supporting their husbands and making fancy gourmet meals. But many real issues were ignored, such as mental illness, abuse, and poverty.

Real people struggle with such issues. A.A. might be happy ignoring reality, when she should be giving her son information as to how to face life's difficulties. Please keep talking about real issues!

**Miriam Adahan**

## I Understand... But

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In response to A.D.'s letter, "Respect Thy Husband," in which she describes how she does not have a relationship with her mother because she put down their father, I understand the pain you experienced.

Now that you have grown, healed, and moved on, perhaps you can look past your point of view and ask yourself why your mother acted this way. True, she made a bad mistake. But perhaps there was a cause. Maybe she had a tough father who caused her to fear him and by extension fear her husband also. Perhaps this is how her mother treated her father, maybe there were other reasons. But there must have been a reason.

Even more, you admit that your mother went out of her way to care for you. Shouldn't there be some feeling of *hakaras hatov* for what she did do right?

Especially now that your mother is aging, she would gain immensely from having a close relationship with her children, and you would gain too, because every child needs a mother.

May I suggest that you leave behind the past and go on to a brighter future. Just as Hashem forgives us and continues to love us unconditionally, perhaps it is time to stop bearing a grudge, to forgive *b'lev shalem*, and to move on.

You may ask, how do I understand your pain? I understand because I too was brought up in a similar circumstance. I reconciled with my mother after many "cold" years. It was well worth it. It has since been a wonderful, uplifting experience for both of us.

**B.B., Brooklyn, NY**