



**The Nazi's Grandson Who Came Home**  
**Parshas Lech-Lecha**

Taki Nuri is a Japanese businessman who serves as a representative of the global 7/11 store chain. The chain has over 200 stores in Chengdu province in China, and he often visits there to supervise them.

Recently, during one of those trips, he met with Ari Jadwin, a local merchant. During their meeting, Jadwin received a phone call and said he had to take it, for it was the rabbi on the line. The rabbi was my grandson, Rabbi Dov Henig, the Leibovitch emissary to the area.

The Japanese inquired about the meaning of the word rabbi. Jadwin explained that he was the Jewish authority entrusted with teaching Torah, and was calling to invite him to a Torah class.

"I come from the Jewish race too," Taki said surprisingly. "Actually, I am German, the descendant of Nazis, as well as Japanese. My Grandmother was Jewish."

Taki shared his unbelievable story. His grandfather, a Nazi commandeer, married a Jewish girl and promised her a happy life.

After the Holocaust, he escaped to Argentina with his Jewish wife. They hid there for two years, after which they moved to Switzerland and began a new life, without anyone knowing of his dark past.

Their only daughter was born in Switzerland. She knew nothing of her Jewish heritage, married a Japanese man and moved with him back to Japan, where Taki was born.

"So, according to Jewish law, you are a Jew," Jadwin told Taki. "The rabbi will be glad to hear about this."

Rabbi Dov, on the phone line, was told by Jadwin that he has discovered "a Holocaust survivor, Actually, not a Holocaust survivor, a Nazi survivor, a grandson of a Nazi commander." They agreed to meet.

Taki scheduled and canceled the meeting twice. When he finally appeared, it was during the first day of the Sukkos holiday, and my grandson was holding the Four Species when they met. This was the first time he had visited a synagogue.

\*\*\*

In our weekly parsha we read about the first Jew who recognized his Creator at a young age, on his own. Avraham abandoned his fathers' beliefs, rejected their idols and recognized G-d.

Our Sages tell us that Avraham saw a house lit up and full of light. He understood that someone owned and supervised the house. G-d told him: I am the owner. Avraham looked at the world and saw it was filled with light. He understood that someone must have been responsible for all this, and that's how he met G-d.

After recognizing G-d, Avraham became his special envoy who revealed G-d's presence to humanity. He did not rest, but rather walked the earth and shared G-d with others.



How did Avraham do this? Our Sages recount in the Talmud<sup>1</sup> how Avraham established an inn with entry points to the four corners of the earth. He would host guests, who wined and dined. When they wanted to bless him, he would refer them to G-d. "Do you think you ate from mine? You ate from G-d's, and you should bless him."

When bringing a Jew closer to his heritage, you serve him food, and in this setting you can enlighten him. When Jews sit together and share a drink - this experience has great powers and bringing two individuals close together.

\*\*\*

Taki was warmly hosted by my grandson who taught him about the *Tallis*, the *Lulav* and the *Etrog*, and the *Sukkah*.

After praying, Taki sat with other Jews for several hours and learned of his newly discovered people.

He was overjoyed to learn that his Nazi past had no barings one him, and that he is considered a Jew by Jewish law. He asked Rabbi Dov to teach him Torah and the Mitzvos.

To be truly Jewish he need a Jewish name, Rabbi Dov told Taki. Taki agreed, and took upon himself the name of the world's first Jew - Avraham.

Avraham-Taki participated in the Simchas Torah celebrations, and after the sukkos holiday came to put on Tefillin for the first time.

Tears flowed from his eyes as he rapped the leather straps around his arm. He had rejoined the Jewish people, he had come home

<sup>1</sup> Tractate Sotah 10a.