



Elsa High School Newsletter

www.carmel.edu.hk

Weekly Daf

Term 2 Edition 7

22 February 2019 - 17 Adar 5779



Dvar Torah: Ki Tisa

In this week's Parsha, Ki Tisa, we read about one of the best known events in the Torah – the story of the sin of the golden calf. According to the story, after receiving the Ten commandments, the people of Israel camped near Mt. Sinai while Moshe went up the mountain to receive the rest of the Mitzvot. Moshe spent forty days and nights on the mountain while the rest of the nation waited at the bottom. While Moshe was absent, the people of Israel felt abandoned and a decision was made to build a golden calf to worship. After doing so, Moshe was ordered to go down the mountain and when he saw the nation bowing down to the calf, he reacted by breaking the tablets he had spent so long collecting.

When we read what the people of Israel did, the question arises as to how come they sinned so severely. The nation witnessed miracles and major events such as the Ten Plagues, the splitting of the Red Sea and they heard G-d himself. How come that after all of those extraordinary events, the people of Israel decided to sin so seriously?

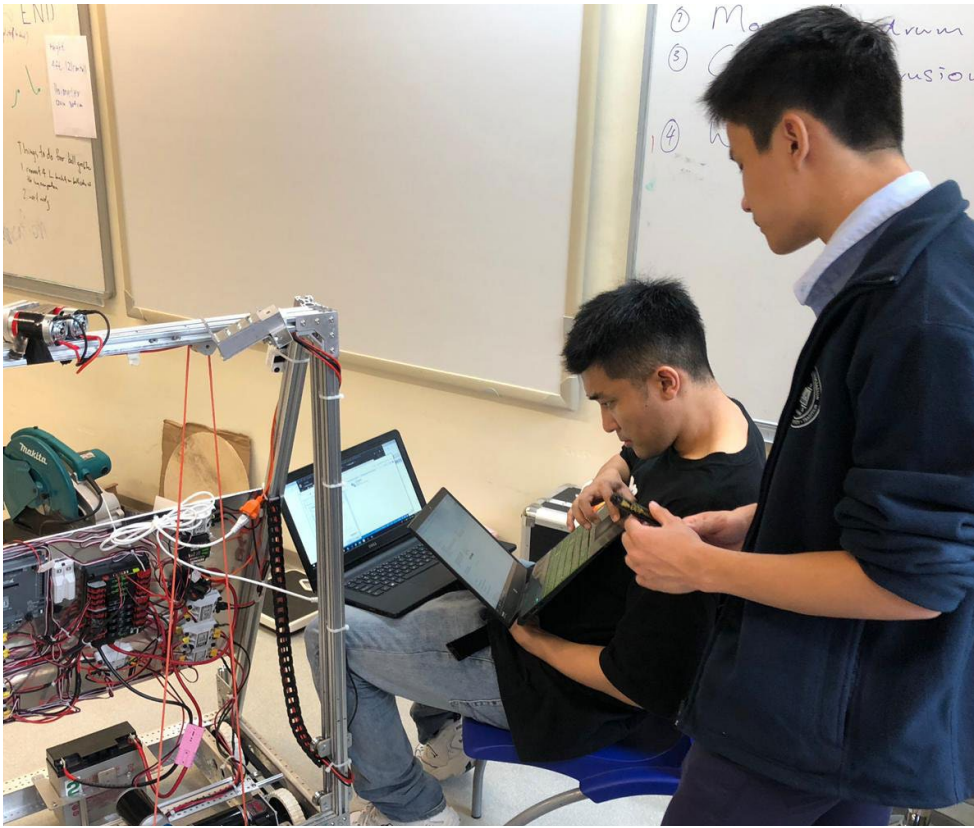
The answer to this question brings us back to the effect of major events in the Torah. The 10 plagues and the splitting of the sea are examples of major events that are limited to what we would have thought. As powerful as they are, they had a very small influence on the people of Israel themselves. By

receiving the Torah, Moshe shows a different way to direct the people. By receiving the Torah and the Mitzvot, we are committed to a daily demanding routine that is more durable and brings a bigger and better influence on the people of Israel. Our tradition is not based only on major miracles, but on long journeys that build our identity step by step. Saying that, no one can deny that from time to time, people need events and experiences that are external to daily life. It seems that the balance between the two is what builds the Jewish pathway.

In our lives, we have a day to day routine as well as powerful experiences that are outside our regular daily schedule; they all have significance and importance. Going to school every day and learning is our routine. We already understand it has its own strength derived from being repeated and framed. On the other hand, from time to time, we all need to get out of the routine to grow by experiencing things that can be experienced only through remarkable events; the Educational Visits are a good example of this. The balance between the Educational Visits and our daily routine is what makes us a better person.

Shabbat Shalom,

Tal Konyon Grade 9



FIRST Robotics Competition Final Update



At 12:50 on Wednesday 20th February 2019, after a bit of a scramble to fix bumpers onto the frame of our robot, the Elsa Robotics Team (aka PRISM 7242) placed the seal on the bag that contained our robot and in so doing signalled the end of the build season. A collective sigh of relief was heard and proud smiles filled Room 103, our new robotics lab. We had done it!

We have a robot that will accompany us to New York in March and allow us to participate in an opportunity of a lifetime. No other school in Hong Kong can say that they built a functional robot and travelled halfway around the world to compete in the most prestigious school robotics competition on earth. By the end of March, Elsa High School will be able to say just that.

It all started with a single student with an interest in robotics. That interest slowly spread amongst the students, and under the supervision of Mr Gravett, turned into a fully fledged school robotics programme. Our first year was a very challenging one, with our school being the only FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team in Hong Kong, and with limited guidance and funding. However, against all expectations, against all odds, we managed to send a working robot, packed with a code to drive both remotely and autonomously.

The story of the battle against all odds quickly spread throughout the school, with leaders such as Mr Gravett and Steven Zhou getting many appraisals for their achievements despite this being the first year. This helped cultivate interest towards Robotics in our school, and more and more people with hidden interests for Robotics stepped up to receive the torch.

This year we had more experience, knowledge, and resources and our team was a lot more dedicated. With the continual support of the Science Department and from mentors outside of school, we were able to grow our team's potential which was now well equipped to handle the extreme demands that getting a working robot to New York would entail. Our marketing team managed to secure the sponsorship of the Lan Kwai Fong Group and our engineering team managed to achieve feats that we as a junior team could have only dreamed of last year.

Now it's on to New York.

The New York event is said to be one of the most competitive regional events in America with some of the most well-known teams in attendance. The competition begins with practice matches followed by qualifying matches. After the rounds of qualifying matches, the top 8 teams get to select their alliance members from the remaining pool of teams. These alliances consist of three teams each then competing in the knockout matches, finally ending with one team being crowned the winners.

For us to actually win the event would not be a realistic expectation. Our goal this year is to score points in every qualifying match and it would be a bonus achievement to be selected in an alliance. Whatever the outcome we will enjoy the experience.

The team would like to thank Mrs Friedmann and all the staff and students who have supported us throughout this season. We hope to do you all proud in New York.

Jeffrey Yao and Oz Haviv Grade 11

Peter Pan and Wendy

On Thursday, the Grade 9 and 10 students had the privilege of going to the Hong Kong Arts Centre to watch a theatre production about the story of Peter Pan and Wendy Darling performed by Faust International Youth Theatre.

It was an amazing learning experience for many performers, to be able to see and learn the different techniques portrayed in the musical. Throughout the show they used many ways of lighting to distract the audience members from stage changing and the drama and theatricality of Peter Pan was very well expressed through many different emotions and use of props.

This brought back all the fond memories of our classic characters like, Captain Hook, Peter Pan, Wendy Darling and the lost boys from our favourite childhood shows. It was also lovely to see a few familiar faces from Elsa High School on stage including, Mia Appelbaum, Sophie Effron and Sarah Cohen - the latter even playing the lead role of Wendy Darling.

I want to say a huge thank you to Mr Swart for organising this event for us as it gave us insight into the immense amount of work that goes into a theatre production and the talent of the cast members in action will help Elsa students in the future.

Ativa Goldberg Grade 9

Le Prénom

This past Tuesday night, several of the French students and I, accompanied by Ms. Fosseprez and Mr. Bartholomew, went to see the famed French production *Le Prénom* at the Hong Kong Arts Center.

The play entails a man telling his childhood friends that he plans to name his child 'Adolphe', sparking a heated debate among the friends, the revelation of deep secrets, and causing unpleasant memories to surface for some of them.

Packed with witty humour, tragic storylines, and beautiful moments of reconciliation, the play took us on the journey of one group of friends' debate about the big philosophical question: What's in a name?

The actors were incredible, managing to make a play, seemingly foreign to some members of the audience, clear to everyone through emotive dialogue and actions.

I truly enjoyed this production and, not only expanded my French vocabulary, but learned of the importance of friendship in times of struggle and self-doubt.

Thank you to Ms. Fosseprez for providing us with this opportunity!

Louis Effron Grade 11



Mother Language Day

This year for the first time, Elsa High School celebrated Mother Language Day together with other schools in Hong Kong and all over the world. This day has been observed since 2000 in order to raise awareness about endangered languages and celebrate the diversity of language.

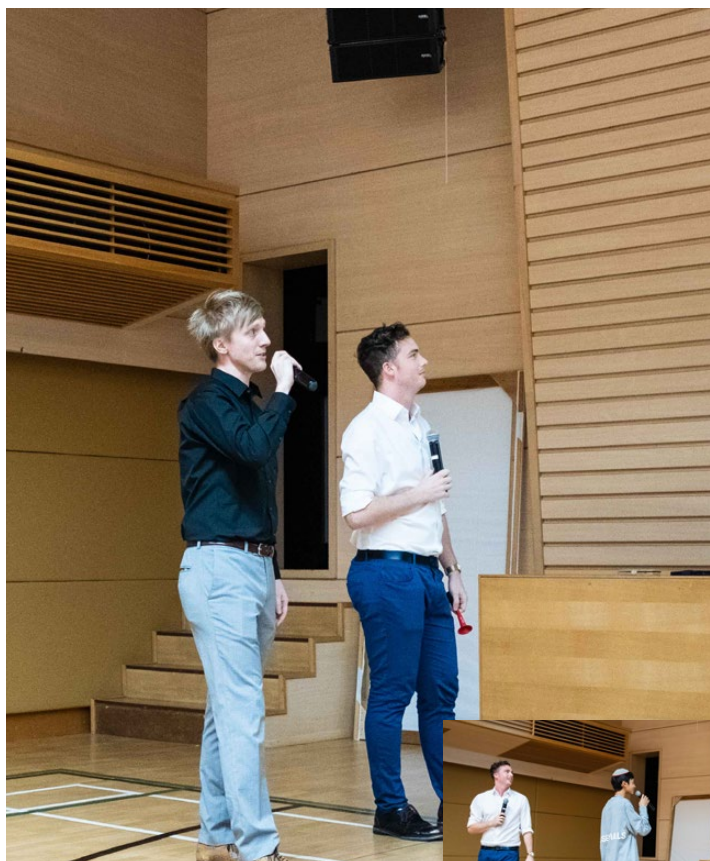
It was a great privilege to organise this day with all the language teachers at Elsa. We have been planning this since December, brainstorming about the best way to highlight our different language departments as well as all the different mother tongues we have at School from the students and staff alike.

It was great to work with students and see how proud they are to showcase their language and present it to their schoolmates. A lot of people came dressed up in their national colours. During the special assembly, in front of a colourful audience, the Mandarin department taught a lesson about the word "chī"; the Hebrew department made a review of Israeli's Eurovision songs and the meaning of that kind of contest; the English department challenged Mr Webber and some students with "the hardest poem to read"; and the French department organised a team competition around French idiomatic expressions. We concluded with a whole school quiz around our five taught languages at Elsa: congratulations to our three winners!

Thank you to all the language teachers who worked hard to make this day happen, and to all the students who participated on the day to make it a highlight of the school year!



Ms. Virginie Fosseprez
French Teacher





Announcements

Purim at Carmel School

Fancy Dress Purim celebrations and Reading Megilat Esther for grades K-12 at the Elsa High School campus

March 21st

Dismissal at 11:00 am from SKW

HAPPY PURIM

Fun Purim activities
Matanot Laevyonim
Mishloach Manot



Under 20 Soccer

On Tuesday 18 February, the Elsa High School Under 20s squad traveled to Happy Valley pitches to face Christian Alliance International School (CAIS) in a football match. On the ride, spirits were elevated and everyone felt energized, yet there was a flaw in the squad - the Grade 12s were in the midst of their mock exams and were unable to play that day. Nonetheless, we kept our heads high and hoped for the best possible outcome.

Prior to the game, we received some valuable and stimulating words from our coach. Shortly after, he revealed the starting lineups to us, which consisted of Joshua Jay in goal, Aryeh, Ori, Alon, and Tal defending, Benji, Charlie, Mordechai, Dan, and Eitan in midfield, and Marco up front. The game started off firmly with a fair amount of chances from Elsa and with us retaining the majority possession on the ball. In an anxious CAIS attack, one of their strikers collided with one of our defenders in the box in an attempt to regain possession. It seemed as if the tackle was clean, but despite our assumptions, the referee gave CAIS the penalty, and they scored. Then, minutes prior to the end of the first half, Benji precisely crossed the ball to Charlie who volleyed it into the bottom corner. The half ended and we were disappointed, although it was a draw, the boys felt that the result did not reflect the performance.

In the second half, Elsa changed gear; Marco scored three goals, one goal in which he ran past three defenders and accurately placed the ball into the goal. Dan then scored a rebound goal and to put the icing on the cake, Marco scored another to make the final result 6-1. At the end of this half, the boys felt that the performance did reflect the result.

I hope we can have many more victories similar to this game in the future.

Huge thanks go to Mr. Julian for organising this game and to Coach Julius for helping us secure this victory.

Aryeh Oser Grade 9

Books of the Week

Support at home is key to how young people approach reading for pleasure. Every week we will be promoting books new and old, fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages and levels.

Our libraries are **open to students and parents** alike and books can be borrowed through students' accounts.

These books, and more, can be found directly:
libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php
or through our school library site:
carmel.edu.hk/learning/library

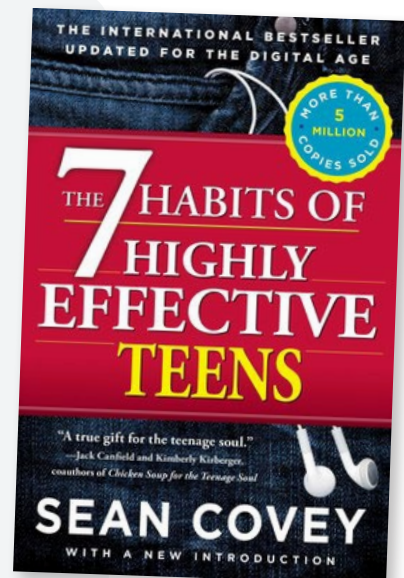
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

Imagine you had a roadmap—a step-by-step guide to help you get from where you are now, to where you want to be in the future. Your goals, your dreams, your plans...they are all within reach. You just need the tools to help you get there.

That's what Sean Covey's landmark book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, has been to millions of teens: a handbook to self-esteem and success. Now updated for the digital age, this classic book applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to the tough issues and life-changing decisions teens face.

In an entertaining style, Covey provides a simple approach to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, and get along with their parents, as well as tackle the new challenges of our time, like cyberbullying and social media.

"Covey's book teaches whoever reads it how to set goals, get organized, prioritize, make good decisions, and most of all, to help build good character." Jimmer Fredette NBA Player



Non Fiction

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

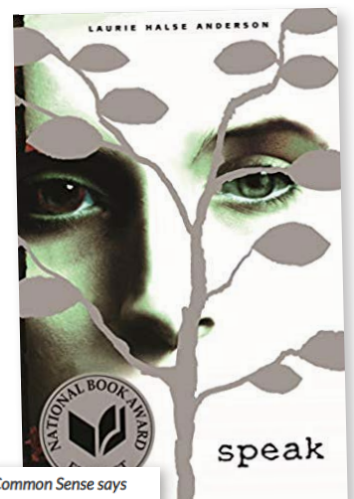
"Speak up for yourself - we want to know what you have to say."

From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether.

Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication.

Recommended Age 14+ commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/speak

"A frightening and sobering look at the cruelty and viciousness that pervade much of contemporary high school life, as real as today's headlines ... The plot is gripping and the characters are powerfully drawn ... a novel that will be hard for readers to forget." Kirkus Reviews



Common Sense says
✓ age 14+

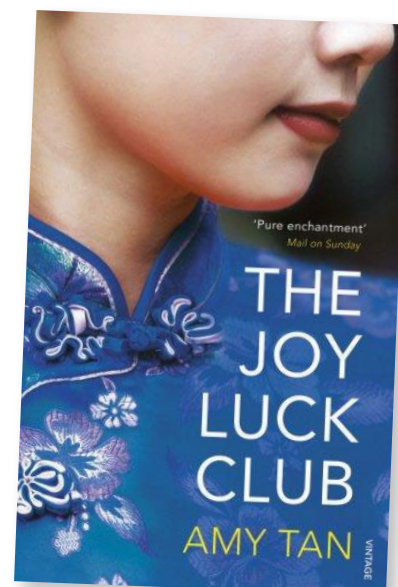
Fiction

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters, who have never heard these stories, think their mothers' advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives - until their own inner crises reveal how much they've unknowingly inherited of their mothers' pasts.

With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan's debut novel - now widely regarded as a modern classic - examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between these four women and their American-born daughters.

"Powerful ... full of magic ... you won't be doing anything of importance until you have finished this book." Los Angeles Times



Fiction



PTA Announcements

Carmel School PTA and JCC proudly presents

Are We Fostering a Generation of Screen Addicts? The Effects of Screen Time on Our Lives From Tots to Teens A Talk with Dr. Quratulain Zaidi

March 12 (8:00-9:00pm)
JCC King David Room

Carmel Parents and JCC members \$100
Non Members \$120
RSVP enquiries@jcc.org.hk



Dr. Quratulain Zaidi (BSc. Hons, MSc, MSc, PhD) is a mother and registered Clinical Psychologist with the Health and Care Professions Council HCPC in the UK is a member of the British Psychological Society and British Association Counselling & Psychotherapy and abides by the Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling and Psychology. She has lived in Hong Kong and Singapore for 16 years. She specialises in assisting families with issues including parenting, teen issues, Cybersafety, marriage guidance, post natal depression, stress and anxiety disorders, depression, bullying, eating disorders, OCD and self-harm. She is an expert in educational assessments and learning challenges in children, for example ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia and ASD.

CARMEL SCHOOL
ELSA HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

INTO THE WOODS JR.

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE

APRIL 9-10, 2019 / 7:45 PM

AUDITORIUM, SHAU KEI WAN CAMPUS

TICKET PRICE: \$360 FOR ADULTS / \$160 FOR STUDENTS

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT:
CARMELMUSICAL.EVENTBRITE.COM

DIRECTED BY GARY SWART
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY CELIA LEUNG
ASSISTANT DIRECTION BY ILY GERSHON



We hope you've enjoyed reading

Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf



From **The Weekly Daf Team**

Tyra Dahlberg, Louis Efron, Hanna Hipwell-Serfaty, Ian Lyons, Issy Lyons, Luis Yap and Mr. Dan Bartholomew

Happy Birthday to
Cate Chua, James Kanevsky, Scott
Xiang, Charisse Yu

Mazel Tov to
Nilly Pardo on her
Bat Mitzvah



CARMEL ANNUAL FUND



#powerofparticipation

Every student counts.

Every moment counts.

Every donation counts.

Thank you to all who have pledged so far

Please visit www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkpwvj0azvoo
to find out how you can contribute

Follow Us Online!



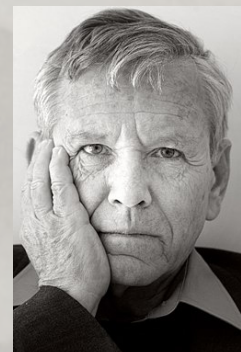
@CarmelSchoolAssociation



Carmel School Association

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר שני: מהדורה מספר 23
י"ז באדר א' ה'תשע"ט



מתוך הספר "מיכאל שלי" כתב: עמוס עוז

לפני כחודש נפטר עמוס עוז, אחד מהסופרים הישראלים הגדולים, החשובים והמוכשרים ביותר. לזכרו אני רוצה להמליץ על הקריאה באחד מספריו המוקדמים, "מיכאל שלי".

גיבורת הספר, חנה גרינבאום, היא צעירה ירושלמית בשנות ה-50 של המאה ה-20. היא פוגשת באוניברסיטה העברית בסטודנט לגיאולוגיה בשם מיכאל גונן, והספר מגולל את סיפור נישואיהם ואהבתם (או שמא יש לומר חוסר אהבתם). הקול המספר הוא קולה של חנה העצובה, החולמת

על עולמות מסעירים ורחוקים בעודה כלואה בשכונה ירושלמית קטנה, דחוקה ודוחקת.

עוז עושה כאן את הבלתי אפשרי, ומצליח לתאר בגוף ראשון את עולמה הפנימי הכבד של אישה, עם כל המחוות הקטנות, הניואנסים, הרגשות והתחושות בשפה ייחודית וקולעת.

למהדורה החדשה הזאת נוספה הקדמה יפה מאת עוז עצמו, ואחרית דבר מעניינת ומיוחדת מאת צרויה שלו, שמוסיפות שתיהן לקריאה בספר העדין והעצוב הזה.

המורה תמר

מיכאל שלי

ביום-חורף בתשע בבוקר מעדתי במדרגות. צעיר זר אחז במרפקי. ידו היתה חזקה ומתאפקת. ראיתי אצבעות קצרות, שטוחות-ציפורן, אצבעות חיוורות אשר על פרקיהן צמחה פלומת שיער שחור. הוא הזדרז להפסיק את נפילתי. אני נשענתי על זרועו עד שחלף הכאב. הייתי מבולבלת מפני שמשפיל הוא למעוד פתאום בנוכחות אנשים זרים: עיניים חוקרות בולשות וחיוכים בלתי-נקיים. והייתי נבוכה מפני שכף-ידו של הצעיר הזר היתה רחבה וחמה. כאשר תמך בי הרגשתי בחום אצבעותיו מבעד לשרוול שמלת-הצמר הכחולה שסרגה לי אמי. חורף היה בירושלים.

הוא ביקש לדעת האם נפגעתי.

אני אמרתי כי אולי נקעתי קרסול.

הוא העיר שהמילה קרסול יפה בעיניו. וחיך. חיוכו היה מבוש ומבייש. אני הסמקתי. גם לא סירבתי לו כאשר ביקש רשות ללוותני אל המזנון שבקומת-הקרקע. רגלי הכאיבה. בניין טרה-סאנטה הוא מנזר נוצרי שהושאל לאוניברסיטה העברית לאחר שנחסמה הדרך אל הבניינים בהר-הצופים. זהו בניין קר: המסדרונות רחבים וגבוהים. הייתי מפוזרת בלכתי אחרי הצעיר הזר שתמך בי. נעים היה לי לציית לקולו. אני לא יכולתי לנעוץ בו מבט ולחקור את פניו. דימיתי לראות כי פניו מוארכים, רזים וכהים.

הוא אמר:

"עכשיו נשב."

אנחנו ישבנו בלי להביט זה בזה. הוא לא שאל לרצוני כי אם הזמין על דעת עצמו שני ספלי קפה. את אבי המנוח אהבתי יותר מכל איש אחר בעולם. כאשר הסב מפרי החדש את ראשו ראיתי כי נערו גזוז בתבנית נמרצת וכי גילוחו אינו אחיד. בעיקר מתחת לסנטרו נראו זיפים כהים. אינני יודעת מדוע היה פרט זה חשוב בעיני, חשוב דווקא לטובתו. חיבבתי את חיוכו ואת אצבעותיו ששיחקו בכפית כאילו יש להן חיים של עצמן ואינן תלויות בו. והכפית אוהבת את אחיזתן. אצבע שלי רצתה חלושות לגעת בו מתחת לסנטרו, במקום שבו היה גילוחו פגום והזיפים בצצו.

מיכאל גונן שמו.