

When Rav Belsky came back to the OU after being unwell for weeks, the OU made a small seudas hodaah, that consisted of a very big cake and soda. A few people spoke, he was smiling. Then as people were leaving, he called me over and told me in a low voice, that 'I want to bring a piece of cake home for my wife, can you please help me find a way to wrap a piece of cake for her?' (he also showed concern for his wife another time when he was saying that they found something that had to be removed surgically from her face (above her mouth maybe?) and he wanted to know if I knew the surgeon).

I once took my son to visit Rav Belsky in the house and he said to him, you better smile for the camera otherwise the camera won't work.

We were once discussing privately about the integrity of dinei tirah in general – and one of the things he said was that while it is possible that there are people who are very upset with him over positions he took in dinei torah, nobody can claim that he took a position because of money, as he never enriched himself from dinei tirah.

I remember a story – about 20 years ago, I was learning parts of the Komarner chumash – however, the only sets available were small. They had originally printed the set on larger pages but those sets were no longer available. One day, I went to a chassidische shul in Boro Park and noticed the shul had a large set of Komarner chumash, so I approached the rov and asked him if I can buy it. The rov said he needed to think about it because this set belonged to an old Hungarian mispalel who was nifter and had written in his tzavaah that he wanted his seforim to go to that bes medrash in his memory. I discussed this with Rav Belsky zt'l and he said that ordinarily, a rov who owns his shul has the right to sell any sefer that belongs to the shul, but in the case of the Komarner chumash, many Hungarian yidden treated this sefer as a segulah – so since the donor may have also had the intent that this 'segulah' should be transferred to the shul, I should offer to replace the big set with my smaller set which will fulfil the segula intent of the donor, and then buy the big set from the shul - The rov accepted rav Belsky's approach and thanks to Rav Belsky, I got a large set of Komarner chumash.

Another time, I was driving Rav Belsky and he said that once, a bochur in Torah Vodaas announced that he had a dream that on a certain day he (the bochur) was going to die. So, the bochur started planning for his death, telling his friends what they should do with his belongings after he dies etc... Rav Belsky heard about this and tried to convince the bocher not to pay attention to the dream but it did not work. He told the bochur, meet me in the morning before shacharis in front of the yeshiva and we will go to Rav Mosher Feinstein to discuss this. They went to MTJ and after shacharis, Rav Moshe called rav Belsky over and asked him why he was there, so Rav Belsky asked Rav Moshe if they can discuss the matter in a private room. Rav Moshe heard Rav Belsky and then heard the bocher. who insisted his dream was a message from HKB"H. Rav Mosher then said to the bocher that there is no nevuah these days, and someone who claims he had a nevuah is a navi sheker, so you (the Bochur) are not allowed to give credence to the dream. The bochur heard Rav Moshe and he stopped believing his dream, Rav Belsky then said that the bochur eventually got married and raised a beautiful toradik family and he has grandchildren and is an upstanding member of the community.