

**Our *Neshamos* Agreed to Everything that Happens in our Lives**

**Our Tour of the World**

The *medrash* says, “Greater is the fear of being born than the fear of death.” Fear of death is the fear of the unknown, and the fear of being born is a greater unknown for the *neshamah.* So the Ribbono Shel Olam,in His great mercy*,* wants to make it a little easier for us. *Chazal* tell us that He sends a *malach,* and the *malach* gives us a tour of this world.

The *neshamah* is shown everything – marriages, homes, all the phases of life, [*ad zibulo basraysa,*](https://nasck.org/initiatives/comfort/)until the last shovel of earth. After the *neshamah* is given its tour of this world and is told, “This is your mission, this is your job, this is the reason you are down here,” the *neshamah* comes back up to *Shamayim*, andHaKaddosh Baruch Hu asks, "Do you understand your mission?"

The *neshamah* responds, "Yes."

"You realize you have to be born; that's the purpose of creation?"

"Okay."

"You know, I showed you everything beforehand, and I explained it to you?"

"Right."

And Hashem, so to speak, takes a contract, and tells the *neshamah*, "Here, everything is spelled out in the contract. I want you to sign that you knew about this beforehand." The *neshamah* signs. We come down to this world.

After 120 years, we come back up to *Shamayim*, and the *neshamah* says, "Ribbono Shel Olam, how could You have done this to me?"

HaKaddosh Baruch Hu answers, "*Sheifele,* I showed it to you beforehand, and you signed on it!"

There is a plan on this world. Nothing that happens is random or by chance. And furthermore, everything that happens to us is essential to our *neshamah’s* ability to fulfill its mission.

([Rabbi Fishel Schachter. *To Comfort and Be Comforted,* Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah Publications,](https://www.chevrahlomdeimishnah.org/product/to-comfort-and-be-comforted-a-guide-to-the-mitzvah-of-nichum-aveilim-book/) pages 53-54)

**We agreed to our lives here before we were brought down to this world because our *neshamos* clearly saw how every aspect of our lives would be for our spiritual benefit.**

**Take This Home**

The next time something unexpected, inconvenient or difficult happens today, reroute your reaction and tell yourself, “Hashem planned it this way, and I agreed to this because it’s what my *neshamah* needs.”

**In Short**

The living do not feel the tremendous anguish of the departed – how he cries and bemoans his deeds. At that moment, he says to himself, “If only I would have some opportunity to correct my actions!”

[Chafetz Chayim in Shem Olam](https://keterjudaica.com/sefer-shem-olam-2-volumes), ch. 7 (as quoted in [*The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah* by Rabbi Tzvi Hebel*,* Judaica Press,](https://nasck.org/product/the-neshamah-should-have-an-aliyah/) page 29)

**It Happened to Me!**

***My Olam Haba Moment***

My ten-year-old daughter voiced her dismay about the behavior of some of the girls in her bunk. Apparently, they were planning to present their counselors with an envelope that appeared to contain tips from their parents but was actually empty. One of my daughter’s friends told her she thought it was a funny joke. I was very proud of my daughter’s response: “You think it’s funny here, but you’re not going to think it’s funny when you get up there [pointing upward].”

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