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Lesson 64 A

A Soldier for Peace

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Liat: **Heyyyyyy**

Eran: **Heyyyyyy**

Liat: **eyze kef – what fun! Ma shlomcha Eran? shanim – it’s been years!**

Eran: **eyze kef! Wow Liati, kol kach hitga-agati ela-ich – I’ve missed you so much. . . tni chibuk – give me a hug!**

Liat: **eyze kef she-hizzlachta lehisha-er od kzzat – it’s so much fun that you’ve managed to stay a little longer.**

Eran: **betach, kamuvan! kshe-hitkashart elay be-emzza hatiyul shelach laMizrach haRachok – when you called me in the middle of your trip to the Far East. . . eyfo ha-it bediyuk – where were you exactly?**

Liat: **beNepal – in Nepal. . .**

Eran: **ken, amart li she-at beNepal vesheyesh lach bakasha ktana – you told me that you were in Nepal and that you had a little request . . .**

Liat: **ken. . . lo bakasha kol kach ktana – not such a small request . . . she-tidche et hachazara shelcha lePrag beshvu-a-im – that you would postpone your going back to Prague by two weeks . . . shetisha-er od kzzat ba-Arezz, ad she-ani chozeret – that you stay a little longer in Israel, until I came back. . .**

Eran: **ken, nachon, ze darash kzzat hit-argenut aval – right, that required a little bit of arranging but. . . afilu menahel hateatron bePrag gila simpatya ve-empatya lasiba – even the theater manager in Prague was sympathetic and emphatic about the reason. vebetach sheRonit hevina – and of course Ronit understood. hi hayta chayevet lachzor lePrag bazman kedey lehozzi et Marko veNatasha mipensyon hachatulim – she had to go back to Prague to get Marko and Natasha out of cat boarding, vekedey lehagish avoda launiversita – and in order to submit an assignment to the university, aval hi beferush amra li – but she explicitly told me: “tisha-er! zot bakasha mechavera tova veze lo shiur ragil – stay! This is a request from a good friend and this is not a regular lesson” vehi zzodeket – and she’s right.**

Liat: **nachon. hi zzodeket – that’s true. She’s right. ata yode-a – do you know, kshetiyalnu baMizrach haRachok vera-inu et kol hatarbuyot hashonot ha-elu – when we were in the Far East and we saw all those different cultures, hanofim hamehamemim – the stunning landscapes, hama-achalim –the foods, hareychot – the smells, hazzva-im – the colors. . . berega-im ka-ele pashut shochchim et chayey**



hayomyom ba-arezz – during those kinds of moments you simply forget day-to-day life in Israel. ha-inu mamash menutakim mitelefon, mitelevizya, metinternet – we were actually disconnected from telephones, from television, from the Internet. . . rak pa-am bekama yamim higanu le-eyze-shehu makom shebo yazza lanu lehitadken bamitrachesh ba-olam – only once every few days did we get to a place where we had the chance to catch up on what was going on in the world. . . kacha ze haya rov hatiyul – much of the trip was like that. . . ve-az beNepal, bemahalach hatrek she-asinu – and then in Nepal, during the trek we did. . . ha-Anapurna Beys Kemp Trek – the Annapurna Base Camp trek. . . nichnasnu achrey kama yamim le-eyze gest haws vehaya sham internet – after several days we went to a guest house, and there they had Internet, vegalashti kzzat ve-ra-iti sheze bediyuk yom hazikaron lerezzach Rabin – and I surfed a little and I saw that it was exactly the memorial day of Rabin’s assassination. . . az haya li kasha – then it was not easy for me. . . razziti lihiyot ba-arezz, lihiyot bakikar – I wanted to be in Israel, to be in the Square. . . veyadati she-ata ba-arezz – and I knew that you were in Israel. . . ve-az ala li hara-ayon haze – and then I had this idea, levakesh miYonatan she-hashior haba ihiye al ze – to ask Jonathan for our next lesson to be about that. . . ve - and. . .

Eran: shena-ase oto beyachad – that we would do it together, kol hazzevet shel Learn Hebrew Pod – all of Learn Hebrew Pod’s team. ha-emet, she-im lo ha-it mevakeshet mimeni lehisha-er ha-iti azzuv me-od – the truth is that if you had not asked me to stay, I would have been very sad.

Jonathan: ze be-emet haya ra-ayon mezzuyan Liat – it was really a wonderful idea Liat. la-asot shiur mishelanu lezecher ha-ish hagadol haze – to have a lesson of our own in memory of this great man.

Dan: velevakesh meEran lehisha-er – and to ask Eran to stay. ze be-emet mashehu she-anachnu zrichim la-asot – this is really something we should do. . .

Liat: kulanu beyachd – all of us together!

Jonathan: lelo safek – without a doubt. ani choshev she-hazehut shel kol echad meitanu ke-Israelim – I think that the identity of each and every one of us as Israelis, kshura be-ofen bal inatek lame-ora hahistori vehatrawmati haze – is intrinsically connected to that historical and traumatic event. . . rezzach Rosh haMemshala – the murder of the Prime Minister, adam shepa-al, yazam velacham lema-an atid tov yoter lekulanu – a man who worked, initiated and fought for a better future for all of us,



Dan: **lema-an hashalom** – for the sake of peace!

Jonathan: **kol echad me-itanu zocher et hayom ha-hu** – every one of us remembers that day. **kol echa me-itanu nose sipur katan** – every one of us carries a little story, **shel eyfo hu hayad o eyfo hi hayta basha-ot shelifney** – about where he or she was in the hours before, **be-et sheze kara** – at the time it happened, **hahargasha leshema hayedi-ot ha-ele** – the feeling of hearing the news, **vehatchushot shele-achar miken** – and the feeling afterwards. **bashi-ur haze nikra venesaper harbe al Rosh haMemshala Izzchak Rabin** – in this lesson we will read and talk a lot about Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, **habiyografya shelo** – his biography, **ma-avako lehava-at hashalom le-Israel vele-amey ha-ezor** – his struggle to bring peace to Israel and to the nations of the region, **ma-avak shenikta ba-4 beNovember 1995 birzzichato al-yedey mitnakesh yehudi** – a struggle that reached an abrupt end on November 4th, 1995, with his assassination at the hands of a Jewish assassin . . . **nikra hespedim she-ne-emru al kivro bidey beny-mishpacha, chaverim, medina-im** – we will read eulogies that were given at his grave by family members, by friends, by politicians. . . **aval natchil basipurim haktanim ha-ele** – but we will start by telling these little stories. **hasipurim ha-ishi-im** – our personal stories. **Liat. . . tirzzi lehatchil** – would you like to go first?

Liat: **kamuvan Yonatan** – of course Jonathan:

ha-iti bat 16 ksheRabin nirzzach – I was 16 years old when Rabin was murdered. **hasipur sheli hu kimat ishi** – my story is almost even more personal, **mikeyvan sheMenachem, ha-aba shel hachavera hachi tova sheli deaz, Reut** – because Menachem, the dad of my best friend at the time, Reut, **haya echad mishney hanehagim haprati-im shel Izzchak Rabin** – was one of Yitzhak Rabin's the two private drivers. **kama sha-ot lifney ha-azzeret, Reut hitkashra elay vesipra li she-aviha yasi-a ha-erev et Rosh haMemshala la-azzeret veki hi tiztaref elav** – A few hours before the rally, Reut called me to say that her father would be driving the Prime Minister to the rally that evening and that she would be joining him. **hi sha-ala im erzze lehiztaref eleyhem** – she asked me if I would like to go with them . . . **ha-iti ezzel hadodim sheli berishon lezziyon** – I was at my aunt and uncle's in Rishon leZiyyon, **hitlabateti vebasof mishum ma lo halachti** – I was uncertain if I would go, and eventually, for some reason, I didn't go. **nish-arti sham ad ha-erev** – I stayed there until the evening. **sichakti im beny hadodim sheli bizman shehahorim shelahem ra-u et ha-azzeret batelevizya basalon** – I played with my niece and nephew while their parents were watching the rally on TV in the living room. **pit-om haya mivzak chadashot meyuchad vehem higbiru et havolyum nora** – suddenly there was a special breaking news report, and they put the volume up



very loud. **hadodoim sheli nivhalu me-od mehachadashot vehayta avira shel metach gadol basalon** – my aunt and uncle were terrified by the news and the atmosphere became very tense. **ani zocheret be-ikar et ze shebeshalav mesuyam hakaryan amar sheRabin bemazzav kasha** – I especially remember that at a certain point the announcer said that Rabin was in very bad condition, **ve-az doda sheli amra pit-om** – and then my aunt suddenly said: "oy va-avoy, hu niftar, nachon Chaim? hu kvar met – oh my God, he's gone, right Chaim? He's already dead." **veCha-im milmel** – and Chaim mumbled " lo yode-a, lo yode-a, yachol lihiyot – I don't know, I don't know, it could be", **vehi himshicha** – and she continued "im hem omrim shehu bemazzav kasha, az zehu ze, ze nigmar, hu halach, hem techef yodi-u shehu niftar, lo Chaim – if they are saying that he is in bad condition, then that's it, it's over, he's gone, they will soon announce that he passed away, isn't it so Chaim?" **veChaim mamshich lemalmel** – and Chaim continued mumbling " **ken, kanir-e** – yes, probably". **vedoda sheli: "oy va-avoy hu met. Rabin met. hu razzach oto. oy va-avoy Chaim, Rabin met** – Oh my God, he's dead, Rabin is dead. He murdered him, Oh my God Chaim, Rabin is dead". **ha-iti hamuma** – I was shocked, **lo he-emanti shedavar kaze yachol likrot ba-arezz** – I couldn't believe that such a thing could happen here, **vechashavti, ma kore im Reut** – and I wondered what was happening with Reut. **kara la mashehu? eyfo hi hayta? hi ra-ata et ze?** – had something happened to her? Where was she? Did she see it? **aval me-ever leze hitchil lenaker li barosh** – and other than that, this thought kept crossing my mind, **ma kore po** – what's going on here? **lama, lama hi omeret shehu met im bachadashot omrim shehu bemazzav kasha** – why, why is she saying that he is dead if on the news they say he is in bad condition . . . **ele hachadashot** – this was the news, **hem omrim et ha-emet** – they are telling the truth, **hu kanir-e be-emet bemazzav kasha** – he is probably really in bad condition. **hem lo yeshakru veyagidu mashe-hu acher mima shehem yod-im** –they wouldn't lie and say something other than what they knew . . . **achrey kama zman, be-emet hodi shehu niftar** – a while after, they actually did announce that he had passed away. **ze haya azzuv. mafchid** – it was unreal, sad, frightening. **doda sheli amra** – my aunt said: "**at ro-a, eyze mazal shelo halacht lesham im Reut, eyze mazal** – do you see, how fortunate it is that you didn't go there with Reut, how fortunate" . . . **veani rak hizzta-arti shelo ha-iti sham** – but I was only sorry that I hadn't been there. **hizzlachi lifpos et Reut rak harbe yoter me-uchar** – I was able to catch up with Reut only much later, **hi amra she-hi lo yechola ledaber achshav veshenedaber achar-kach** – she said that she was unable to speak now and that we would talk later. **dibarnu lemochorat** – we talked the next day. **hi sipra li shehi hayta mamash leyad ksheze kara** – she told me that she was right there when it happened, **veher-eta li tmuna ba-iton shero-im et**



hasear shela bezzad hafreym – and she showed me a photo in the newspaper where you could see her hair at the side of the frame. **ota tmuna shehafcha achar-kach lihiyot kol-kach zchura lekulanu me-erua harezzach berachavat hakikar** – the very same photo that later became so very well remembered by all of us from the occasion of the murder in the Square.

Jonathan: **toda Liat. Eran, tirzze lehamshich** – would you like to continue?

Eran: **ken Yonatan, toda** – Yes Jonathan, thank you:

bishnat 1995 ha-iti chayal beZzaha”l – in 1995 I was a soldier in the IDF. **be-otam yamim lo garti beTel-Aviv ela beHerzzeliya** – at that time, I didn’t live in Tel-Aviv but in Herzzliya, **aval be-oto yom Shabat, ha-4 beNovember nasati levaker chaver shegar beTel-Aviv, lo rachok mehakikar ba hitrachasha ha-azzeret** - but on that Saturday, the 4th of November, I went to visit a friend who lived in Tel-Aviv, not far from where the rally took place. **haya li chashuv lehishtatef ba velitmoach betahalich hashalom** – It was important to me to take a part in it and to show my support for the peace process. **ani zocher she-higanu mamash bahatchala aval kedey lo lehitaka bapkakim azavnu kzzat lifney she-histayma** – I remember we arrived there right when it started but to avoid getting stuck in traffic, we left just before it ended. **misham halachti levaker chaver nosaf** – from there I went to visit another friend. **ze madhim** – it’s amazing. . . **haiti kodem, mamash heychan sheze kara** – I had just been exactly where it happened. . . **aval keshe-higati el hachaver yashavnu vesochachnu** – but when I arrived at my friend’s, we sat and talked, **lo shamanu chadashot ve. . . be-ezzem lo haya lanu musag ma kore** – we didn’t listen to the news and. . . we actually had no idea what was going on. **ha-iti ezzlo sha-a be-erech ve-az nichnasti la-oto** – I was there for an hour or so, and then I went to my car, **hitchalti linso-a vepatachti radio** – I started driving and turned on the radio. **rak az hevanti ma kore** – only then I realized what was happening. **ha-helem haya gadol** – the shock was big. **haya li barur she-ani ed leme-ora histori** – it was clear to me that I was witnessing an historical event, **echad hadramati-im she-ir-uy pa-am bamedina** – one of the most dramatic that had ever happened in Israel. **tchusha sheluvta be-ezzev amok** – a feeling that was accompanied by a deep sorrow. **hayta leRabin eychut abahit velachen hayta me-eyn hargasha shel hityatmut me-av** – Rabin had fatherly quality, and because of that, there was a feeling of having lost a father.

lemochorat ha-iti zzarich lachzor lazzava – the following day, I had to go back to the army. **kach she-omnam lo halachti lehadlik nerot bakikar** – so I actually didn’t go to the Square to light candles, **aval babasis shebo sherati ha-iti zzamud lemirka hatelevizya velaradyo** – but on the military base where I was serving, I was



constantly in front of the TV screen or near the radio. **aval me-az ve-ad hayom bechol shana** – but ever since then until today, **kshemitkayemet bakikar ha-azzeret lezichro** – whenever we hold a rally for his memory in that Square – **ani nimzza sham** – I’m there. **eyn safek sheyom Shabat, ha-4 beNovember, hu yom she-lo eshkach le-olam** – there’s no doubt that Saturday, November 4th, is a day I will never forget.

Jonathan: **toda raba Eran. Dan?**

Dan: **toda Yonatan** – Thank you Jonathan:

be-November 1995 ha-iti choyal meshuchrar, kvar kim-at shana – on November 1995 I had been out of the army for almost a year already. **hayta li chavera mi-Zfat shelamda be-Cheyfa** – I had a girlfriend from Safed who studied in Haifa. **be-ot erev yazzanu bemechonit mi-Zfat le-achar sofshavua ezzel horeha** – on that evening we left Safed in a car after spending the weekend at her parents, **yachad im achota, ba-ala shel achota veyaldeyhem** – together with her sister, her sister’s husband and their children. **baderech shamanu sheShimon Peres veRabin mitchabkim vehakatavim mitragshim mize** – on the way we heard that Shimon Peres and Rabin were hugging and the reporters were so excited about it. **anachnu vehayeladim asinu harbe ra-ash bamoshav ha-achori shel ha-oto** – we and the children made a lot of noise in the car’s back seat, **velachen haradyo kuba be-eyzeshehu shalav** – and because of that, at a certain point, the radio was turned off. **yaradnu me-ha-oto beCheyfa vehachevr’e himshichu lebeytam** – we got out of the car in Haifa and the guys continued to their home. **od beterem patachnu et delet hadira shamanu et hatelefon mezzalzzel** – even before we opened the door to the apartment we heard the phone ringing. **al hakav hayta ima shela, nis-eret vemebulbelet** – on the line was my girlfriend’s mother, agitated and confused – **shesipra lanu sheyaru beRabin** – who told us that Rabin had been shot (**lo hayu lanu az telefonim naydim velachen lo yachlu le-hidi-a lanu bizman she-ha-inu baderech** – we didn’t have mobile phones back then, so they couldn’t let us know us while we were on the way). **nizzmadnu laradyo** –we were glued to the radio. **ksheEytan Haber yazza la-itiona-im bahoda-a hahistorit** – when Eitan Haber went out to the press with that historic announcement, **hachavera sheli parzza bebechi** – my girlfriend burst into tears. **ani ha-iti hamum vemebulbal** – I was astounded and confused. **et sh-ar ha-erev ani lo mamash zocher** – I don’t really remember the rest of the evening. **aval ani zocher et masa halevaya beshidur chay** –but I remember watching the funeral march on a live broadcast. **ve-et ha-hamonim omdim bezzifut le-orech kol haderech** – and masses of people crowded all along the road. **ve-et hahargasha**



ha-ayuma she-richafa ba-avir kol oto shavu-a – and the terrible feeling that hung in the air all of that week. **ve-et ha-azzeret ha-anakit ve-hazzfufa beKikar Malchey Israel baShabat shele-achar miken** – and the gigantic, packed rally at the Kings of Israel Square the following week, **sheba husav shma leKikar Rabin** – when they changed its name to Rabin Square.

Jonathan: **toda gam lecha Dan. venesayem et sipurey hazzevet**, and we'll conclude the LHP team's stories with my own:

bishnat 1995 avadeti ketaklitan – in 1995, I was working as a DJ. **niganti muzika be-eru-im** – I used to play music at various events, **bechatunot, Bar-Mizzvot** – at weddings, Bar Mitzvas. **yofi shel avoda** – a great job, **harbe anashim, harbe muzika, harbe ochel, harbe simcha** – a lot of people, a lot of music, a lot of food, a lot of happiness and joy. **ha-4 beNovember haya yom shabat** – November 4 was a Saturday. **bemozza-ey Yom Shabat, tamid yesh eru-a** – on a Saturday night, there's always an event . . . **be-oto erev nasati lenagen beBar-Mizzva beKibuzz Shfa-im** – and on that evening, I went to play at a Bar-Mitzvah at Kibuzz Shfa-im. **eru-a gadol, yokrati** – a big and lavish affair. **ba-aley ha-eru-a hishki-u me-al ume-ever** – the family had gone over the top. . . **lifney ha-eru-a nifgashti im hahorim ve-im chatan hasimcha kedey leta-em bediyuk et hamusika shetenugan** – before the event I met with the parents and the Bar Mitzvah boy to coordinate the exact music to be played, **hamako haya mefo-ar, huzmenu kishlosh me-ot o arba me-ot orchim** – the place was fancy, three or four hundred people were invited . . . **hate-ura hayta marhiva vehakeytering yokrati vemefursam** – the lighting was spectacular and the catering prestigious and famous . . . **hakol hitchil bisvivot hasha-a sheva vachezzi vezaram bediyuk kmo shezzarich** – everything began at about half past seven and went on exactly as it should have been. **bekabalat hapanim nigna revi-iyat kley meytar** – a string quartet was playing at the reception, **hamishpacha vechatan Bar-haMizzva kiblu et ha-orchim** – the family and the Bar Mitzvah boy greeted the guests, **bisvivot hasha-a tesha niftechu hamiznonim ve-anashim achlu venehenu mikol rega** – at around 9pm they opened up the buffet and people were eating and enjoying every minute. **vekmo bechol eru-a sameach vemuzzlach** – and as at every happy and successful event, **leachar ha-ochel huzmenu kulam lerachavat harikudim lismoach im hamishpacha** – after dining everyone was invited to the dance floor to rejoice with the family. **kasha-a leachar miken** – about an hour later. . . **ani zocher et hatmunot he-ele** – I can still see those pictures in my mind . . . **be-ota tkufa lo lekulam hayu telefonim nayadim** – at that time, not everybody had mobile phones. . . **aval ele she-hayu lahem telefonim hechelu lekabel sichot** – but those who did started getting calls, **michaverim sheyashvu baba-it vezzafu**



batelevizya o mika-ele she shemamash chazru meha-azzeret beKikar Malchey Israel – from friends who were watching TV at home or from those who had just returned from the rally at Kings of Israel Square. . . hitkashru eleyhem im hayedi-ot hatriyot – they called them with the breaking news. . . le-at le-at pasku harikudim ve-anashim hechelu ne-esafim bekvuzzot leyad ba-aley hatelefonim – gradually the dancing stopped and people were gathering in groups near the people who had mobile phones. . . ada-in hugshu kafe ve-ugot lekinu-ach aval harikudim pasku – still they were serving coffee and cakes for dessert, but the dancing stopped altogether. chelek me-ha-orchim hechelu la-azov – some of the guests started leaving – vechelek notru ada-in lekabel et ha-hoda-a hasofit al moto shel Rosh haMemshala be-odam sham – and some remained and received the final news about the death of the Prime Minister while they were still there. simcha gdola nehefcha le-ezzev bal yeto-ar – a big and joyous event had become an indescribable sadness.

In the B Lesson we will read Yitzhak Rabin's biography, abridged from the website of The Yitzhak Rabin Center, www.rabincenter.org.il, used with their kind permission.

Let's conclude this lesson by hearing the historic announcement made on that day by the Prime Minister's Bureau chief at the time, Eitan Haber. This announcement was read on behalf of the Israeli Government to the Israeli public outside the hospital to which Rabin had been taken and where his death had been declared by the hospital's physicians:

"The Government of Israel announces in dismay, in great sadness, and in deep sorrow, the death of Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Yitzhak Rabin, who was murdered by an assassin, tonight in Tel Aviv. May his memory be blessed."

ממשלת ישראל מודיעה בתדהמה, בצער רב, וביגון עמוק על מותו של ראש הממשלה ושר הביטחון יצחק רבין, אשר נרצח בידי מתנקש, הערב בתל אביב. יהי זכרו ברוך."

"Memshelet Israel modi-a betadhema, bezza-ar rav uveyagon amok al moto shel Rosh haMemshala veSar haBitachon Izzchak Rabin, asher nirzzach bidey mitnakesh, ha-erev beTel-Aviv. yehi zichro baruch."