

in P.S.

אָדער, פֿאַר אַן אָקט. 21 2001

Dear R. Lamm ע"ה;

I recently read in a newspaper that you had announced your intention to retire from your position this coming summer. I was very saddened by the news. It is, fourteen years since I have left the Yeshiva and we have had any direct contact, so obviously I am not capable of espousing any opinion on the matter. It is, however an opportunity to express some personal emotions.

I would just like to say that I will always be indebted to you for the two wonderful years which I spent at the Yeshiva. True, our personal relationship was limited to an occasional conversation, and a written exchange of תשובות ופירושים on the topic of מקור שבת. However, the actual Torah which I imbibed during those two years, along with broadening of my horizons and experiences, shall enrich me forever. All of this combines into a deep feeling of הכרת טוב which I would like to express. I am sure that in whatever capacity you will find yourself, you will continue to touch and affect the lives of others for the better, as you have mine, and this juncture in the road of your life seems an appropriate time to express my appreciation.

The first פרק בחומר את הספינה חסד mentions an accessory of a ship called the מנהיגים. The רש"י interprets this as referring to the oars, based on the יתקן מן הסוף (1:35) which the חסד cites. The same סוף also mentions the rudder, which at first thought would seem to better qualify to be termed the מנהיגים as the rudder actually determines which direction the ship shall take. Yet the רש"י (and יתקן מן הסוף) insist the oars are the מנהיגים. I learned from this, that the real מנהיג is the one that bends a shoulder and "shleps" to provide the energy to do the job. The real leader is the one who provides the "blood, sweat and tears" that

is necessary for any institution to continue to function successfully, not the one full of good ideas as to which direction to go. It is for the benefits which I derived from the institution of ~~you~~ which you were the מנהיג in that sense, that I express to you my appreciation and thanks.

May ה' grant you טובים ושנים טובים and continued success in all areas of חינוך and עבודה.

Sincerely,
Avraham Crt