

**LIFE IS WHAT IT IS - ??  
THE JOYS OF TRUST and INNOCENCE!**

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Looking at this photo of one of our calves I began to ponder the joy of trust and innocence in young lives. Allow me to explain the photo. Debra and I were feeding out some hay to our cattle and stopped to take some hay from the trailer to spread on the ground for the cattle to eat. As we were doing this a young calf decided that he would take the opportunity to rest on some of the hay we had put out. Keep in mind these are beef cattle so unlike dairy cattle they are not physically handled on a daily basis. We had never handled this calf but over time his mother had grown accustomed to our presence.

As you can see from the photo this young calf put himself in a dangerous position. He lay down between the trailer and the 4x4 and seemed oblivious to the environment around him. He had complete trust that he was in no danger and he was completely innocent in his behaviour and expectations. His life at that moment was perfect for such a calf. Nothing was a worry and not a negative thought was had or contemplated. The joys that come with trust and innocence in the very young were on display. As we have regular contact with our cattle, this calf's mother not only knew exactly where her calf was but through experience was confident that he was in no danger from us. I can

assure readers that his mother would never have allowed him to take this position if it were a stranger's vehicle or with strangers only present. She was and is a responsible mother and sees to it that her calf can have that time of trust and innocence. What a contrast this is to a number of news stories in our media, reporting the deaths of toddlers and babies through the hands of their parents or de facto parents. The growing number of children and babies killed, injured and traumatised by the very people who should be sheltering them is horrific. Imagine the outcry [rightly justified] if I was to deliberately run over the calf behind our 4x4. People would be up in arms all over the world if it was to make the social media. Yet when a human mother, father, relative or someone who should be caring for their little ones, kills, maims, or traumatises them, scarcely a word is heard and often they receive very little punishment. Many of these people who commit these horrendous acts are fuelled by illegal drugs. Illegal heavy drugs are rife in our societies, yet if a sportsperson is caught taking them, they are called "recreational" drugs. In the wider community the softer word "Illicit" is used instead of illegal or criminal. Any parent taking illegal criminal drugs has lost the right to parent a child. As a farmer I have a list of regulations I need to follow and adhere to in animal husbandry, and if found guilty of contravening those regulations the cost is heavy. The RSPCA seek greater penalties from the authorities when dealing with animal cruelty than those who supposedly dealing with human cruelty. Imagine the outcry if ISIS were to film themselves treating animals the same way they treat humans. Imagine the outcry if they were to use a Zoo as a shield against attack. I realise these are extremes, but we are living in a world that is fast becoming a world that a child can no longer trust. The innocence of children is being disrupted by the daily decisions of adults. The computer has replaced the TV as the new baby sitter and access to material that destroys innocence is rife. Illegal drugs supplied by criminals has a place in far too many homes and the behaviour of parents taking these illegal drugs can no longer be trusted or relied upon.

It is a sad day when a cow makes a better and more responsible mother than the parents of a child. It is a sad day when those responsible for the safety of our children can no longer be relied upon and would rather engage in the destructive behaviour of self gratification over and above the responsibilities of parenthood.

In saying these things I realise the majority of parents want the best for their children. Most parents take their responsibilities seriously and it is the most difficult of "jobs" with very little training offered. None the less there is a great manual for parenting, it is called Torah and the God of Israel is the author. Follow this manual and you can be assured children will be able to put their trust in their families and they will be able to grow and experience the innocence that they so deserve.

Please consider getting on board with a Biblical pro-torah community. Torah offers the foundations that provide the road map for healthy prosperous families, in an environment of trust and innocence for our children.

May HaShem forgive our shortcomings and help us build better families.