

YK 2016, Revised
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Zayde, please tell us the story of the Erev Yom Kippur Miracle again.

Of course, my children, gather round. The Chicago Cubs, the official baseball team of Reconstructionist Judaism, had not won a World Series in 108 years. In 2016, the Cubs won 103 games, but they were on the verge of blowing it once more, trailing by 3 runs in the ninth inning of the fourth game of the Division Series, and moments away from coming home, probably to lose the fifth game at Wrigley.

And did some Jewish Cubs players pull it out?

No, it was Erev Yom Kippur, so no Jewish Cubs players played.

But isn't it true that they had no Jewish Cubs players?

Well, yes.

So, why was it important to the Jews for the Cubs to win?

Because if they lost again, there would have been a horrible wave of anti-Semitism.

Why, if there were no Jewish players?

Theo Epstein, the president of baseball operations for the Cubs, and the architect of the team, is Jewish.

So, who saved the Cubs, if there were no Jewish players?

This is the best part of the story. The Cubs, and the Jews, were saved by three righteous Latinos. I call them the Alphabet Latinos.

The Alphabet Latinos?

Yes, ABC, Aroldo, Baez and Contreras. And their actions ushered in a new period of love and brotherhood between all peoples of the world, although Donald Trump claimed that he did that.

And did you see the game, Zayde?

Yes.

But it was Erev Yom Kippur, weren't you in shul?

Yes, my children, but this is why God gave us Tivo. Baruch HaShem.

And is this the greatest of all miracles, Zayde? What about the parting of the Red Sea and the oil lasting eight days in the temple?

Well, those were good, too. But many believe that they are myths that never actually happened. The Erev Yom Kippur Miracle is the only one that we have on video.

And did the Cubs go on to win the World Series, Zayde?

Yes, they won in five games. Jason Heyward was the MVP.

So, my friends, this is it. My swan song. There will be no need to wonder next year whether God is a Cubs fan.

So, you may say, at least it's a happy ending, right?

Happy? Like hell.

We Jews are not happy when we're happy. We need something to kvetch about. *Forty years* we walked in the desert. For *what?* To become the damn *Yankees?* I don't think so.

We are *underdogs*. We *thrive* on curses. And now, *this*. Over a hundred victories. A World Series championship. How could we ever live up to this next year? Moses was lucky. He never made it in to

the Promise Land. Why did *we* have to? What did we do to deserve *this*?

Oy Vey.