

**Friends/ A Story for Rosh Hashana-Yom Kippur  
By Hagit Aharonof**

**Does anyone know Tamar?**

**If you know Tali, you know Tamar, too. And if you know Tamar, you know Tali, also. Why is that?**

**Because Tamar and Tali were best friends. In class they always sat next to each other. Wherever they went, they went together.**

**When one of them braided her hair, the other did too. And when one let her hair down, the other did, too. They would tell each other everything and always decided things together.**

**The other kids called them “Tzilly and Gilly”.**

**And then, one day, Tamar and Tali quarreled. Nobody knows exactly why. They didn’t tell anyone. But suddenly, one fine day, they just stopped speaking to each other. Nobody saw them together anymore.**

**When Tamar braided her hair, Tali would let her hair down. And when Tali braided her hair, Tamar would let her hair down. As if they were saying to each other: “Just because of you”. So that everyone would see. So that everyone would know!**

**One week passed and then a month. Tamar and Tali had already forgotten why they were quarreling, but making up was impossible.**

**“Actually, being angry seems so silly,” thought Tamar, and she missed the days when she and Tali would walk to school arm-in-arm.**

**Tali was also unhappy.**

**“If I only knew that Tamar wants to be friends again, I would ask her to make up with me,” Tali thought. “But maybe she’s still angry ...”**

**In Elul, the month before Rosh Hashana, Shulamit had her hands full. That’s because Shulamit is the girl who always tries to make peace between the kids who were angry at each other. She was quite successful at this, and so the kids called her “the angel of peace”.**

**Tamar and Tali knew that Shulamit would get to them one day, too, and that is what happened.**

**One day during recess, Shulamit spoke to Tali and said, “Tali, it’s time to make up with Tamar. What do you say?”**

**“I didn’t make up my mind yet,” said Tali. “And besides, we’re not talking to each other, so how can we make up?”**

**“Leave that to me,” said Shulamit with a mysterious smile and disappeared.**

**Next, she went to Tamar, and said: “Tamar, you’ve been having a stupid fight with Tali long enough. It’s time to make up.”**

**“I’ll think about it,” said Tali, who was really thinking, “I’m not brave enough to ask her first”.**

So Tali and Tamar each went home, and each was thinking the same thing. "If only Tali would ask me first to make up," thought Tamar. "If only Tamar would ask me" thought Tali, "I'll say 'yes' right away."

## Chapter 2: How to make a New Years card

The next day during art class, the teacher said, "Today, children, we are going to make greeting cards for Rosh Hashana."

"What should we write in the card?" Shira asked.

"Have a happy new year", suggested Miri.

"Have a year of peace" Daphna offered, and she sat down quickly to write it in the card she had decorated.

"Have a successful school year," Tali added.

"And I'm going to write that you should have many happy and good years," Moriah announced.

"Those are all good ideas," said the teacher, "but you can also write something personal." The teacher's voice was drowned out by the excited buzz in the classroom. Everyone was busy preparing the greeting cards. Only Tali was unhappy. Her teacher's words echoed in her ears: "You can write something personal... something personal... What did the teacher mean when she said "something personal"? Did she mean the fight she had with Tamar? The teacher brought over a large cardboard box. On the box was written 'Leshana tikatevu ve'tehatemu May you be written and sealed for a good year.'

"We'll put our cards in this box," the teacher explained. "Then we'll put a postage stamp on each one and the postman will deliver the letters to the houses."

One by one, the girls finished writing their cards and placed them in the carton.

## Chapter 3: The Secret

Nobody knew Tali's secret. No one could even guess.

Tali had made a new years card for Tamar, and inside she wrote:

Dear Tamar,  
A good year. A year of peace.  
Tali

In the top left corner of the card, Tali drew a white dove carrying a new years card in its beak. And in the bottom right corner- she drew two girls holding hands. Above the girls, she wrote in teeny, tiny letters: Tamar Tali

That was how Tali thought about making up with Tamar without anyone helping.

The next day Tali came to class and she hoped that Tamar would come over and tell her what a beautiful card she had sent, but nothing happened. The next day came and went, and then the next. Tali was very tense and nervous. Many questions buzzed around in her head:

How will Tamar react?

Will Tamar come over to her? What will Tamar say?

It was hard for Tali to keep her mind on her classes, and during the recess, she would sit in the corner of the classroom, sunk in thought.

One afternoon, when Tali returned home from school, her mother said to her:

“Tali, you have mail.”

Tali’s heart began to beat rapidly, she was so excited.

“Maybe someone from my class sent me a new years card, she thought.

And there on the table, lay four envelopes, four greeting card envelopes.

Tali looked at each envelope to see who the sender was.

The first envelope was from Miri.

On the second envelope was written: ‘Sender: Ruti.’

On the third envelope, she saw written: ‘From Shira.’

The fourth envelope had no return address.

“I wonder who was so careless about writing her name ?” Tali said.

But the handwriting on the front of the envelope was so pretty and rounded.

Tali saw that it was not a careless person who had written her name and address with such attention.

Tali opened the envelope and with shaking hands pulled out a beautiful new years card. It was decorated with silver sparkles and on it was written:

To Tali,

Please forgive me if I hurt you.

I want us to be friends again. I wish you success in everything you do.

Your friend who loves you,

Tamar

Tears sprang to Tali’s eyes. Tears, but not of sadness. These were tears of happiness. Tali was very excited.

This was the first time that she ever felt that when your heart is happy and singing... tears come to your eyes.

See, she thought, when you want to make up, you can do it without anyone else helping.

And that is what happened. The next day when Tali and Tamar met, no one had to say a word. They ran towards each other, looked each other in the face, and they each knew that the quarrel was over.

**That very next recess they were walking around arm-in-arm. Tamar had her hair pulled back in a braid, and Tali had her hair pulled back in a braid. They began to tell each other all the things they hadn't told each other for a month. Now they are thinking up new ideas and plans, just as though they never quarreled.**