

Sgt. First Class Ben Zussman z'l

I'm writing you this note on my way to the base. If you're reading it, then something apparently happened to me. Since you know me well — no one is happier than I am at this moment. For I was able to fulfill my dream in battle. I am happy and grateful for the privilege I will [soon] have of defending our beautiful land and the Jewish people.

And if something happens to me, I do not permit you to sink into sadness. I had the privilege of fulfilling my dream and my life's purpose, and you can be certain that I am looking at you from above with an enormous smile. I imagine that I'll sit next to Grandpa and we can fill each other in, on what changed from [his] war to [my] war. Maybe we'll talk some politics, too, and I'll ask him what he thinks.

If G-d forbid you are sitting shiva, turn it in to a week with friends. Family and a good time. And there should be food. Meat.

Sergeant Major Yosef Gitratz, 25-years-old, was killed in battle in Gaza.



Dear Mom and Dad,

I love you so much.

Everything is as it should be. I chose this. I lived a good and interesting life, yet at the same time, I was never afraid of death. I could have chosen to hide and not to come here. But that would go against everything that I believe in and value, and who I consider myself to be.
So I had no alternative, and I would make the same choice all over again. I would do the same again and again. I made this choice myself and pursued it to the end.

I died honorably for my people. I have no regrets. I love you very much and I am proud that you are my parents. You gave me a great deal. I had a very interesting, full, happy, unique life. My death only emphasizes that.

I'm certain that you're feeling a great deal of pain. But you will overcome it. That's what I very much want. That's the main thing that I want. You both have many people close to you who will support you.

Please find something positive in all of this. Be with the grandchildren. Help Israel. I'm fine.