

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 12



What did Bilam's donkey say on their way to curse the Jews? Nay.

You get it? That's what the horse said, even if misspelled. We didn't do the 'moo' one for the red heifer last week. We had to give you an animal one for the children. It's for the kids.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

always loved Shlock Rock. How did Lenny Solomon revolutionize Jewish music and inspire me?

My Dear Pupil, Lenny revolutionized Jewish music when he took pop hits and turned them into Jewish hits. He realized that the best way to make a hit, is to take a hit and make it hit. The art of taking the music of others and changing the words has helped the world of Jewish music grow, without using Jewish music. Since the Jewish pop revelation, Lenny has been Shlock rocking to communities all over the globe and spreading the word of non-Jewish songs to Jews. Here are some greats. His genius is self explanatory.

•'Making Aliyah Today' (tune of 'Born in the USA' by Bruce Springsteen)
Lyrics: Gotta call from a man today. It was my Rabbi he said move away. Go to a place where the land is good. Land of milk and Honey and Brotherhood. I was Born in the U.S.A. Now I'm Making Aliyah Today. (2X)
Explanation: Aliyah is moving to Israel. In this song, Lenny Solomon takes the most patriotic American song and changes it 180 to leaving the USA. It's the message that inspires you.

•'To Unite All Jews' (tune of 'With or Without You' by U2)
Lyrics: To unite all Jews. To unite all Jews, right now. I can't wait. To unite all Jews.
Explanation: Love songs are frowned upon, if not singing to Gd. Hence, we had to change U2's song. Until Bono writes Shir Hashirim (Song of Songs), we're not singing his lyrics. I think we all have to rethink our concept of romance.

•'Abarbanel' (tune of 'Barbara Ann' by the Beach Boys)
Lyrics: Abar bar bar bar barnel.... We think you're swe-e-el. Abarbane-e-el.
Explanation: Who was the Abarbanel? He was definitely a rabbi who lived a long time ago. You see. It feels good to be educated by Lenny Solomon. 'Abar bar bar bar barnel' is repeated around thirty more time in the song. I believe as an educational tool. Lenny figured out the formula we all love. You take a classic and it's a classic. People being educated by songs is questionable to me. Even so, there's so much we can learn, especially when Lenny sings of the 'Minyan Man.' If somebody were to ask me, right now, how to connect to Judaism, I would tell them to read a book.

SERMON OF REBUKE - BALAK

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants,
S Them... No. When I say 'them,' I'm talking to you... 'Them' is you... It's also you... I'm talking to him... trying not to offend. This congregation is impossible... I feel like cursing right now... We just have to identify as Jews... The annual town board meeting shows how much they hate Jews... Not you. Them... That's them... Is the idea of the meeting to curse Jews? Is it to raise taxes on our homes??? Yes. That is anti-Semitism... And we still voted for her.

Rashi (Bamidbar 22:4) Midian and Moav hated each other. 'They only made peace because of their fear of Israel.' Fear can bring people together... Fear of not getting to the whitefish at Kiddish can pull people apart... I've had to conspire against Jews before, to get some smoked fish... In this congregation... I'm not saying Ms. Milt likes Whitefish... We need to bond together. How do we do that? Fear?... Nobody wants more home taxes...

They heard of Israel's military victories and feared. What they feared? Who cares? Point is they feared. They were scared. They joined their enemies, to destroy somebody that could have been a friend... Israelis are always willing to be friends. Ever go to the shuk? They always say 'My Friend.' People I never even met in Israel are calling me 'My Friend'... You go to the shuk... You're scared they're going to rip you off. But it's your friend ripping you off. Many people have fears. Our bar mitzvah is going to be reading the Torah today. He fears that people will be screaming at him for messing up the Torah reading. He fears that people will be whipping candies at him. He fears that his voice is going to crack and that

he will have to write 350 thank you notes after he gets his gifts. We wish you much mazel, Johnny. I fear that your parents didn't give you a Hebrew name, Johnny. The point is, stay away from people... At least make friends with the Gabai. He's going to be on your back from the beginning to the end of your Layning... Any word you read wrong, he'll be right on it... It happens because we think negatively about ourselves. (*Bamidbar 22:3*) They 'jumped.' It was a knee jerk reaction. Like the way Sadie decided on the new ark cover. It's messed up... Silver embroidery?! You embroider with gold. Fear is a negative reaction to ourselves. It leads to bad decisions, like Michael's new haircut... He only had a few hours to get a haircut, before the Three Weeks and this is what he gets... It leads to voting for Ms. Milt. They feared. Rashi says Moav and Midian 'became disgusted with their lives.' That's what fear does. That's why the team loses every game. Forget about joining with other people or cursing the other team. We have to see ourselves as good... How? You identify. How do you connect? You check the box... Not by going to shul or visiting Israel. Just check the box. We need you to check that box, 'Jewish'... It's not enough to vote. We've seen what voting does to the shul board... You're not Jewish? You're just a guest of the Bar Mitzvah? It's fine. It's for the census...

Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelchem's Drasha:
The speech being given before the Bar Mitzvah boy's reading of the Torah instilled a lot of fear in the kid. Referring to everybody as 'them' confused people. Everybody thought the rabbi was specifically not referring to them throughout the speech. He had to change it back to 'you,' 'he' and 'she' so that they knew who he was rebuking.
I think the problem is that people are identifying as 'they.' We need them to be identifying as 'Jewish.'

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in Honor, Memory or Refuah of
Your Loved One, and share
Laughs in their Merit.
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