

THE Kibbitzer

vZot HaBracha
Surprise Addition



I knew something fishy was going on when I saw lox on all the doors.

You get it? Lox is a fish. Locks are used on doors. The most brilliant pun yet. Fish are created on the fifth day.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

I have danced at weddings and mastered the circle dance. I'm worried about adding the Torah to the mix, and being embarrassed. Can you advise me as to ways I can dance with the Torah?

Chag Saemach My Dear Pupil. I am happy you asked. As Jews, we dance in circle form. On Simchat Torah, we dance with a Torah, in circle form. Here are some dances of Torah Happiness:

•*Two Handed Torah Lift* A flashy move with the Torah. This is where you grab the bottom two handles of the Torah pole and lift the Torah, up and down. Similar to the ubiquitous supinated arm raise, this should always be done with two hands, as nobody wants to fast for 40 days.

•*The Torah Bang* Two people take their Torahs in the 'Two Handed Torah in Air' dance formation and then bring them towards the middle and have them touch. This can also be done with three or more people. If there are enough people, you can have a Torah mosh pit. There's a large community of Torah bangers. Even so, I suggest to be more gentle and to go for the Torah Touch dance. Less injuries occur.

•*The One Hander* Similar to the 'Two Handed Torah in Air,' this is done with one hand. Taken out of the strong man competition, this feat of strength is usually done by circus performers and balancing acts that show up for Shacharit.

•*The Over the Shoulders Hold* You hold the Torah with one arm, placed over your shoulder, and then you place your other arm in the middle of the circle, with the other two to three people holding Torahs. It is kind of like the 'Hokie Pokie', but you leave your right arm in.

•*The Supportive Torah Lift* You hold onto one of the Torah's handles and then lift it while supporting the Torah scroll from the middle of the back. You are working as the lifter and the spotter in this dance. It's a double duty, but it has its rewards in the World to Come.

•*The Torah Hug* You go around in the circle and make sure the Torah doesn't fall. You just walk around and hug it. It's the most intimate Torah dance, showing your love and affection for the Torah and Gd.

Don't have a Torah? Throw a kid on your shoulders. Nobody is worried about them falling.

SERMON OF REBUKE - BEREISHIT

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants, We are now beginning the New Year of the reading of the Torah, as we just began the New Year itself, and Michael just began to go through a voice change, which is making it hard on everybody in the shul...

How do we make this a good start? (*Bereishit 1:1*) 'In the beginning, H' created the heavens and earth.' What've you done? Since the year began, have you done anything? Gd created the whole earth already. Animals... Mrs. Hortman already started eating chocolate... You made a resolution to not eat chocolate... I told you it wasn't the Gregorian New Year's Day... I don't know Greg. I just know that nobody hear has done anything close to creating heavens and earth... You didn't even plant to tomato tree you said you would... What do you have to show for your days? You don't even show up for services.

We are just embarking on the New Year and you said 'I will,' 'I will not.' H' said, let there be light and there was light. You said, let there be weight loss and there was... You took off nothing. This congregation put on 80 pounds last year... It's a big deal, Bernie. 80lbs is a lot... There was definitely chocolate. How do you feel about that Mrs. Slonadowskowitz?... I said, 'Let there be a decent Kiddush' and there was not... You say stuff and you never do it. H' created light because He said so. You cannot create a decent watermelon basket. The watermelon carving is horrendous...

We emulate H', as we are 'created in Gd's image.' But how? You do something. You get off your tuchus... Maybe don't learn from H's

actions. We have enough congregants who like to complain and nothing gets done. H' said it and He willed it. You all just sit on your recliners at home and complain about the rabbi, because you are lazy...

You work on your voice Michael. It cracks...

Say you will work on it... You'll have Hatarat Nedarim next year. We already need it. Less than a month into the year and you already broke your vows... So don't make the vows, just do stuff. Plant the tomatoes already... You've been saying it for five years...

There was 'Tohu Vavohu' which translates to nothing. Kind of like our Minyin last week... There was nothing. Do something. Create something... Just do it. You say stuff and walla, nothing happens... The quilt is pathetic.

Don't create that. Art is not for this Kehillah. Create goodness, like a decent brisket... Use what H' gave you... Create a decent dish. Create a fruit basket that doesn't look like a shark took a huge bite out of a watermelon... If H' wanted to create an amazing fruit basket, made out of watermelon, He would... He knows they always look messed up. That's why he created the watermelon and didn't cut it... Learn how to carve... Better yet, just say it and don't do anything... When you do stuff, it makes everything bad. That is the lesson.

Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelchem's Drasha: Michael's been having it hard recently. His voice cracked again. He couldn't respond to the rabbi's point, as his voice would've cracked. I don't think the rabbi should be getting down on him. Even so, his voice is annoying and all want him to stop singing the 'Eitz Chayim Hee.' I am still trying to figure out why all New Year's resolutions in Gregorian come down to not eating chocolate. The point that H' could have created a watermelon basket really spoke to everybody.

The rabbi had to host an impromptu vow nullification ceremony after this sermon, as he found that everybody in the congregation was a liar. Somebody suggested to wait till next Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, as the congregants were lying about annulling their vows too.

Excerpt from Rabbi Mendelchem's Simchat Torah Drasha (*Devarim 33:4*) 'The Torah Moshe commanded us is the heritage of the congregation of Yakov'... I wouldn't call this a congregation... The back left section is out drinking all the time. They think Simchat Torah is a Kiddish club... Yakov. That's Israel... No. We don't call it Yakov, because nobody would fly to Yakov. It sounds like a messed up country. Not one Birthright trip would've went there... Schottenstein would not fund visiting Yakov for the first time... That was the first speech ever given on Simchat Torah. Rabbi said, 'It's a Parsha. Should we forget it?' That was a statement. The question mark denotes a statement. He also said it with a high pitch. It was a strong statement. And we lost members.

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