

THE Kibbitzer

Tu BShvat
Special

Issue 93



He was alone in his house with nothing to do, so he took out a date.

You get it? The date date joke Nothing more timeless than the date date joke. Works every holiday. And opening a date is an activity. Especially with a date.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. Why do we eat dried apricots on Tu BShvat?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. Let me take you back to the history leading to us eating dried apricots on Tu BShvat. •Seven Species of Israel WheNot one. But seven and some of them are fruit. Eating of the seven species of Israel has been a long tradition of Tu BShvat. But that changed around two thousand years ago, when the Jewish people forgot how to sing the song 'Eretz Chitah uSorah vGefen uTe'enah.'

•Diaspora Happened Jews tried to figure out how to get the fruits of Israel, to connect to the Holy Land. Then they were told, 'You can't eat the fruits of Israel outside of Israel. We have to ensure the laws of Maser, Shmita, and Orlah are followed.' And thus, the first BDS campaign against Israel. The BDS movement had begun. Religious Jews keeping the laws of the land of Israel started the BDS movement.

•Dried Fruit Exists It happened in a grocery store. A Frum Jew who was sinning, started eating dried fruit. He showed the dried fruit of Israel to all in Lvov. As it turned out he wasn't eating dates. There was no pit. To quote

Yievgenie, 'You fool. There are no pits. If it was a date, you would've chocked. Let me show you how to eat dates.' And so, Yievgenie started to sin. And he was the first annoying person who felt the need to show people how to open a date the "right way."

•Apricots Become Popular in Europe In the late 1600s the Misnagdim said you can eat fruits of Israel outside of Israel as long as they're expensive. Even so, many kept eating apricots. Shouts were heard in the streets during the month of Shvat, 'But apricots aren't in Israel.' To which Rabbi Pinchas Ben Mishehu said, 'But dried fruits are.' Arguments continued for many years, as that was the tradition. Yet, after much study and discourse it was concluded that apricots give you a stomach ache. And hence, they are like the dried fruit of Israel. And thus like dried dates, which are native to Israel and grow from trees dried apricots are native to Israel, even though they are not from there. A Gezarah Shava of sorts. The tradition of Tu BShvat now is to have a stomach ache. The holiday can also be celebrated with stomach cramps. You can also celebrate by drinking a gallon of milk.

SERMON OF REBUKE- BESHALACH

Shabbat Shalom My Pupils... That's not reading Hebrew. That is learning to read Hebrew and we just witnessed the pain one goes through when one learns Hebrew... I cannot express how painful it is to have to be part of that when I am trying to get home to eat... On behalf of the shul, I ask you all for forgiveness for Frank's slow leading of the Davening... I am sorry for the suffering... (Shemot 14:8) Paroh decided to chase them and pursue them 'And the children Israel went out with an upraised arm.' Frank tried to chase everybody out of shul... The Jews ran. They didn't start exchanging phone numbers... If Frank was leading Davening, the Jews would've never made it out of Egypt...

What does Snow White have to do with Egypt?... Ukraine, now?! Slavery isn't war. You can't compare everything to slavery... Having to cook for your family isn't slavery... I know you say 'I am slaving.' Slavery is listening to Frank lead Amidah. That's pain. Subjugation... (13:21) They were 'comforted' by a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day. When you know the way you don't worry. When the Baal Tefillah has no idea how to lead prayers, you are worried. I'll be comforted when people in this shul learn how to be Jews... Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha: Listening to these young guest speakers, I realize that my Torah education is lacking cartoons. It's my lack of knowledge of animation that has held me back in seminary. The congregants have a way of comparing stuff to Egypt. Two years ago they were comparing stuff to the Holocaust. Like, 'It's not fair that the prices on milk went up. It's like the Holocaust.' I think that is what COVID and the politicians did to people. Since the Ukraine war thing happened, now they compare that to slavery. One person said, 'The price of the eggs is way too high. It's like Egypt.'

SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

From now on, only people that read Hebrew can lead Davening. What Frank does is not considered reading. It's considered pathetic. For more painfulness, everybody is invited to the board meeting on Wednesday.

Ukraine is still happening. That gives people something to talk about.

We will have a talking group about the war in the Ukraine so that nobody has to bother other people at Kiddish. The Kiddish committee is hoping that this will allow people to enjoy their choolante.

The guest speaker will be talking about why shul and Snow White are very similar, and how the dwarfs left Egypt.

The shul is hosting an egg drive. Anybody who can afford to purchase eggs should donate money to the shul. You are wealthy and selfish.

This Tu BShvat we will serve dried fruit tea. We will also sing 'Jerusalem of Gold' at the Seder, to fulfill the ritual of singing 'Jerusalem of Gold.'



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