

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 138

Tu BShvat
Continued

He was sitting at the Seder on Tu Bshvat alone. Sarah, said he should have a date.

You get it? A date is a fruit. It's also a date, like going out with somebody. Everybody does this pun. It's tradition. We'll do the date puns too.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. Should we be asking questions at Tu BShvat Seders?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. I don't know. That is a hard question to answer. On one hand it's a Seder. On the other hand, nobody knows what that means when it's not Pesach. These are the questions I had last night, which the community did not seem to appreciate. Especially when I called them in the middle of the night to ask about why there are no leaves on my tree in the front yard.

•How many times do we have to sing 'Jerusalem of Gold' to fulfill the commandments of this holiday? Why are we singing words and not singing the lyrics 'Nay Nay Nay'? Are we not religious?

'Man is a tree of the field' (Devarim 20:19)? Why is your dog by the tree right now? Adam comes from the same word "adamah," which means earth? Are you serious?

No. Really. Are you serious?

Can somebody please pass another plastic knife and fork? They broke. Why do plastic forks always break?

Is that a Psik Reisha on Tu BShvat as well? Why did nobody at the Tu BShvat Seder understand that question? Why are we using plastic? Does plastic celebrate trees? Why is everybody looking at me right now? Are we not supposed to ask questions at the Seder? Did I show up to the wrong Seder? Who added this Seder where there are no questions? And why did I clean my house for this?

The Talmud teaches that we should eat all the new fine fruit? Why do are we eating dried fruit? Is the dried fruit new? It's freezing outside. How do we get fresh fruit? Do oranges grow here? Why's my stomach killing? Do trees get stomach aches? Why does no religious Jew care about this holiday except for the people at our shul? Is it OK to care about trees as a Frum Jew? Is it religiously fine to care about people? Why did we not move to Israel, where this makes sense? Is it OK if I excuse myself again? Why is my stomach still killing? Really. Whose decision was it to use plastic?

SERMONS OF REBUKE: BESHALACH

Shabbat Shalom My Pupils...

And the Jews complain to Moshe. Not a surprise. A Korach. A president. A board. Complainers... *Egypt is approaching and they say (Shemot 14:11-12) '... Were there no graves in Mitzrayim...' 'Let us be and we will serve Mitzrayim?' For it is better for us that we serve Mitzrayim than we die in the desert.'* And Moshe tells them H' will fight for them. He tells them to have faith... The question is how do you live? What is better. Is it better to be a member of our shul or to enjoy life? It can be hard to have faith when dealing with the members at Beis Knesses Beis Torahs Emes uSefilah.

'Is it not better that I would not have to sit next to Fran during the sermon?' I

understand... I understand why you ask if one can enjoy oneself on a Tu BShvat diet... There was no dessert at the Seder. It is better we die with dessert than without. And then a vegan Kiddish...

Focus on life. Moshe says, (14:13-14) 'See the salvation of H'...' H' will fight for you and you will keep silent.' One day there might be a decent Kiddish. And members will stop complaining... If people in shul would stop talking, I believe we'd all see salvation... Bernie. I'm in the middle of the sermon. Please refrain from conversation...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Sermon:

It's very complicated to have a Seder with no Matzah. Our whole shu was confused. The apricots killed my stomach. I don't know if apricots did ever not kill my stomach, even wet.

SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The board would like to apologize for the dried fruit this Tu BShvat. Due to injured stomachs, we will not serve dried fruit ever again.

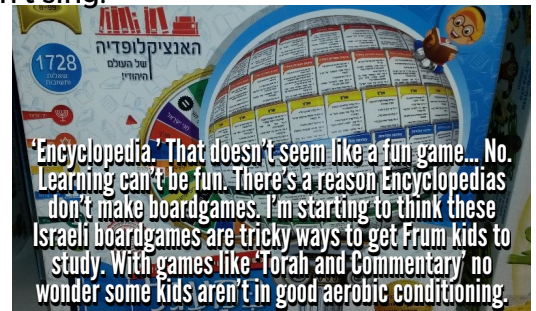
We want to apologize for the board missing Tu BShvat announcements last week. You can practice the holiday now. You can still care about trees if you would like. Though after Tu BShvat the trees don't care. You missed nothing at the Tu BShvat Seder other than Maurice and Helen fighting over when Matzah is going to be served.

We would like to apologize for the date joke. We counted twelve people saying it. Nobody should have to hear that joke about getting a date and eating a date more than once a year.

We ask people to keep their embraces silent. The Shlomo and Baruch hug last Shabbat was so loud, older people got scared.

We are going to force the Himmelmans to share Anim Zemirot. The kids have been hogging the Bima. There are other kids in the shul who

also can't sing.



**The Kibbitzer this week is dedicated to all of our holy brothers and sister who have been affected by the terror.
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