

# THE Kibbitzer

Tu BShvat  
Special



## Why couldn't they figure out the type of wheat it was? It was spelt wrong.

You get it? Spelt is a word. Spelt is a type of wheat. Tu BShvat is about the seven species of Israel. One is wheat...

### RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

**Dear Rabbi. We're hosting a Tu BShvat Seder this year, but we have no questions. Please help us with a meaningful list of questions?**

My Beautiful Pupil. I will help make your Tu BShvat meaningful. Here's a list of questions to ask at your Seder:

•*Trying to Figure Out Why There is So Much Dried Fruit at the Seder*

Why are we only eating dried fruits? Why are we eating almonds with no salt? Why on all other nights are our peanuts salted and enjoyable? Why is my stomach hurting? Why does this hurt more than milk? Why do we have a holiday to care for the environment and vegetarians? Is this holiday about the environment? Why are we using plastic silverware? If I like apples on the counter and I don't like dried fruit, can I please eat an apple? If it's not tradition, can I please eat an apple? How does eating fruits and vegetables make you fat?

•*Confused About Israel's Shrubbery*

What are the seven species of Israel? Is pomelo one of the seven fruits of the Holy Land? Are you sure? Why is this so confusing? Then why do they sell it in the shuk? Should sunflower seeds not

be one of the seven species? Why are Bamba peanut butter puffs not a specie? Are they not a vegetarian food? Are they not made in Israel? Why are they so tasty? If almonds are not one of the seven species of Israel, then can we please pull out the salted ones?

•*Questions About the Environment & People Who Care*

Why did the Jewish National Fund (JNF) take my money for a tree when I was a child? Where is my tree? Why did JNF take money from me in kindergarten and never tell me where they planted my tree in Israel? What happened to the Dead Sea? Is it solidarity with the trees to not sit on chairs? Why don't you pay for us to do yoga? Why is he laying down on our couch? Why did you just drool on our pillow? Why don't you recycle something for once?!!! Why don't you take out the garbage every once in a while?!!! Why are we witnessing a family fight? How are we saving the environment on Shabbat when we are leaving on the lights the whole day? Why am I sitting next to this heretic that just asked that? Where are the kids? All were mad so many questions got asked at our Seder last year. They fought as family.

### SERMON OF REBUKE- BESHALACH

**S**habbat Shalom My Congregants and Single People Looking For A Community to Like Them...

The new davener is going so slow... I learned a whole Mesachta of Mishnah last Chazaras Hashatz... It was a very slow repetition. We have to move. The davening. If we don't move, people are going to start thinking, and they're going to think they shouldn't be here... Yes. Shouldn't be listening to a Chazin meditating... Kaddish is for commemorating the life of a family member... You don't commemorate a lifetime with a service that takes a long time... Paroh sends out the Israelites... When he did it, it was quick.

*(Shemot 13:17) H' doesn't take them straight to Eretz Yisrael. H' takes them around... They would've turned right back if they saw the wars... Have you ever seen a war? You don't just walk into one of those and start making new friends... H' gives the Israelites time to mess up more, before taking them into the land, where they will have a chance to mess up again. The same reason we fired the custodian this past week. He messed up more and then again, and then didn't sweep again. Then used the rabbis computer to download sermons... You give a relationship time to develop, time to mess up. And then you fire them.*

*H' lead us not through the Philistine land, as we would have seen war and turned right back around (Rashi). Kind of like Mr.*

Appelman when he noticed that he was going to have to stay for the whole davening this week. Stepped in the room, got the look for kaddish abilities, and then he jetted.

Sometimes you have to be the 10th man, Mr. Appelman. People are dependent on you... I know. His Kaddishes are long. It's a long battle to make it through those...

A 10th man is needed. And nobody showed up for services on Thursday... Not ready to be a community yet. Not ready to work together. Not ready to put aside are fears of not being slaves and serving H' as one unit... We always see the sisterhood fighting in the kitchen... They're one unit, Frank. They fight as a unit... I am talking about teamwork here. H' saw we needed time as a nation to be a team... The sisterhood could've dealt with war. They're not afraid to fight. The men of this shul are scared... The singles have taken too many long routes already. Get married... You step around the whole thing. As them out... That's the point. Stop being alone. It bothers us just as much as Felvel's long Davening...

We needed time to be a team. We needed commitment. The bones of Yosef were a commitment. *(Shemot 13:19) Yosef 'made the children of Israel swear, saying, "Gd will remember you, and you shall bring up my bones from this..."* Yosef made them swear they'd remember... You remember nothing Bernie... We'll remember the long Kaddish. It's painful. Does anybody remember my last raise?... Exactly. I don't either. It was a long time ago. Does anybody remember Chanan's last date... It's Tu BShvat. Make a move...

*Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:*

The rabbi put Kaddish and mourning in a whole new light for me. I am now more willing to tell mourners they're doing stuff wrong. It used to be hard for me to tell somebody who is crying and sad, that they are doing it wrong.

The singles heard the rabbi's message when he brought it home that they're alone and with nobody. Nobody to tell them they are loved. I think that was truly a strong message. I backed out of the sisterhood. They scare me. Nobody ate dried fruit at the Tu BShvat Seder, that week. I think the reason why the dried fruit needs to last so long, with all the preservatives, is that nobody likes dried plums.



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