

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 82



Efron didn't want to sell the field, but Avraham got him to cave in.

You get it? The field Avraham bought was that of the Cave of Machpelah, MaAraT HamachpelaH. Cave is in the field. He caved in. That's your pun for this week!

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I see people coming to you with questions about life and tradition. How do you deal with it?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. It's not easy and it takes a lot of brilliance. They depend on me. Here's some questions that I have had to field about our tradition, and how I dealt with them.

- Why did you Kasher our kitchen with a blowtorch?* That was a mistake. I shouldn't have taken a blowtorch to their microwave. That was dangerous. The Smicha program should've offered a course in welding. The congregants wanted me to pay for their new microwave, and the table that also went up in flames. I believe that's what the rabbi's discretionary fund is for.
- When our son is getting called to the Torah, where should we stand?* Those parents wanted to be at the center of everything at that kid's Bar Mitzvah. When I called up the young boy to the podium, to give him his prayer book in honor of becoming a man, his dad asked me, 'Where is mine?' The parents left the shul after being offended by my explanation that each person only gets one Bar Mitzvah. They didn't like the idea of not being able to get Bar

Mitzvahed again with each of their children. To make them feel like they were sharing in the celebration, when they were leaving, I whipped candies at them too.

- Can you do my husband's funeral?* I didn't want to answer that question. I told her I'd rather wait till he's dead before answering that question. I don't know what her plans were.
- Is my kitchen Kosher?* After tasting the brisket, I know it wasn't. The meat was too lean.
- Is that our Mayser? Does that count as our tithes?* These people were trying to get out of giving charity. They wanted a definition of charity tithing that included shopping for winter clothes. They told me that walking around without clothes would deem them poor, 'thus buying the H&M collection is charity.' They also asked for the shul to underwrite their trip to Hawaii, as poor people can't afford three-week tropical getaways.
- How does your Yarmulke stay on?* I had no satisfactory answer for this. For me, practice. Many years of practice. It has taken many years to build up my balancing ability. Even now, when there is wind, I have no idea how any bald man keeps a Kippah on.

SERMON OF REBUKE- CHAYEI SARAH

Shabbat Shalom My Pupils... Thank Gd there are no Simchas this week. We're going to talk about death... The shul has a history... Grandparents are part of it. Tradition... The board wants to not focus on death. This is the first shul board I've ever met that doesn't understand fundraising... They want to rebrand. Let's rebrand the board and get rid of the president... It's fine. I have another three years on my contract... The president before you thought it would be a good idea to have a rabbi for more than a year. A rabbi that lasts. Tradition... Let's rebrand with smiles. You're unhappy all the time... Even when you're happy, you are unhappy... That's how

you look. The back left of shul is the darkness in my life... You bring dark to my life...

It's about warmth and tradition... Avraham wants ownership of MaAraT HaMachpela. He wants to make sure future generations connect with their ancestors... Smiles are tradition... The last generation smiled. That's why people came to shul... The kids smile cause of candies... Start giving out candy to the back left of the shul... Tradition. People give money for family members who passed... (*Bereishit 23:11*) 'Just if you will listen to me. I give the price of the field and I will bury my dead there.' Let's see if the board listens and stops making decisions... Avraham could convince Efron to raise money off death. Can't get the board to...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha: Richard really does look unhappy. His face is the look of a mourner.

SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Simchas this week. B"H. Everybody should show up for Kiddish an extra half hour early. Being we don't have to deal with Bar Mitzvah kids, the Torah reading will be read at a normal speed. There will also be no Hosafot and no Mishebeyrachs. And you don't have to pretend like you are happy for the Balei Simcha, and that you love waiting for them.

The shul is now focusing on the future. That means kids. Rebranding is the goal. Along with getting rid of old congregants, we're thinking of a new name for the shul. Ideas from people under eighty are appreciated. We don't want to call the shul Thelma. Seniors must still give donations.

Congregants need to smile. Seeing the members of the congregation is more depressing than hearing our Chazin lead Musaf.

Seat fights must stop. The post-holiday seats are back to normal, and we're back to the regular numbers of twelve percent capacity. You can all take your seats back that the board stole from you for the Chagim.



This is how religious Jews party in Israel. They go to gravesites. Be it Parshat Chayei Sarah, a Sukkot concert, or just a good times night out in Hebron or up north by the Rashbi's tomb with some Hisbodidus and rugalach.

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