

THE Kibbitzer

Tisha BAv
Special of Sadness



How can you tell if someone is living a double life? If people tell him "until 240" on his birthday.

You get it? We don't know if that's a pun. It might be. It definitely connects to Moshe. He lived to 120, the Jewish blessing of long life, and this week's portion is about him.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Tisha BAv is coming and I still feel like I am getting mad at people.

They are so annoying. What can I do?

My Dear Pupil. I am proud of you and your concern. This day of sadness is because of us. The Second Temple, one of the catastrophes we commemorate on Tisha BAv, was destroyed due to baseless hatred. We must stop that. You need decent reason to hate. We don't need any more destruction. Hence, I will provide you ways to look at some of the annoying people differently....

•Guy Who Puts his Leg in Your Chair on the Plane- How to see this annoying individual: Who is to say, that is your chair? Why is it in front of that guy, if it's yours? If their leg wasn't in your back, they would be less comfortable, and you wouldn't be sitting straight. It seems to me that you're being the selfish one here. And this guy's knee is helping your posture.

•Tall Person Sitting in Front of You at Movie Theaters- Tall people have to go to movies. You cannot ban them from the theater. I tried. It would be wrong to force them to sit in the back row. Some would consider that discrimination. Taller people than you are a people too.

•People Who Smoke in Public- They're sharing the cigarette benefits with you. You don't even have to bum one to get the smell on your clothes. Bumming cigarettes is annoying.

•Your Neighbors Above You in the Apartment Building- They shouldn't be there. Being that they are there, we have to accept that your neighbors have to eat. I've complained to the landlord about my neighbors having dinner, but it didn't help. You may want them to stop chewing because you can hear that, along with their walking. Even so, they might choke, and then their coughing will wake you up.

•Neighbors who Leave their Garbage Outside their Front Door- Why should their house smell? That is quite selfish of you. Maybe they will take it down to the garbage at some point, if you don't. Always see the positive.

I can't deal with all annoying people here. There are too many. The idea is to see all positively, so we can hopefully witness a redemption without these people. Please contact me with any questions about annoying people. I have congregants. Remember, there'll always be people who disagree with you politically. You need somebody to hate.

SERMON OF REBUKE - DEVARIM

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants, Moshe begins his final speech before his death with rebuke. As we all know, many of you are not perfect... Many aren't decent. Many of you are just not good people... I'm rebuking here... I'd be fine if this was my last speech... The Shelah HaKadosh teaches that we don't just tell people 'you did this wrong,' because then they will hate you. You have to butter them up and tell them stuff like, 'a smart person like you did this?...oy, I can't believe that!... I say you're good... It's important to be condescending. Then they listen... Yes. You need to exaggerate. How else will they know you don't mean it? You have them think they are doing OK, with sarcasm... You know your lawn is messed up. The trimming is off... Let's start with praise... The back section over by Frank always shows up on time... I'm not praising you, Sadie. You always follow the services... I'm buttering up Frank's section... So they'll listen to how messed up they are... I'm getting there.

Wise, caring people of this shul, who care so much for the next generation, who are smart, though you don't understand the prayers and don't read Hebrew, the congregants who want for their children's Jewish education and give no money to the Hebrew school, and care so much about your parents, who you never see, who you stick in a nursing home, with nobody who cares about them. Why don't you take a little time to learn some Hebrew so the rabbi doesn't have to announce every page... I can't deal with this. You need another leader. (Devarim 1:9) Moshe tells them, 'I said to you at this time saying, "I cannot carry you alone. H' your Gd has multiplied you..." I can't carry you anymore. I've been carrying this shul alone for too long. The other leaders do nothing... The gabai messed up. The president is already

thinking she needs to protest Jewish lives for her political career to take off. The Chazan is singing these tunes that are off... 'Yankee Doodle' doesn't fit Na'aritzcha. The head of the sisterhood still brings out kichel. The brotherhood is a local gang inside our shul... Rashi, quoting the Sifri (Devarim 1:3) comments on why Moshe speaks Israel now before his death. When I talk with you all, I feel like I am around a lot of death. That's why I rebuke weekly... Have you seen yourselves? Depressing. I see you wish a Shabbat Shalom and I'm thinking life might not be worth it...

Smile. We rebuke people, only close to death, cause we don't want to rebuke and then do it again... You think I enjoy having to see Michael's haircut, every week?... If you were his congregants, Moshe would've always been rebuking... You complain about Kiddish all the time... The spies scared the Jews with grapes, and your kids are scared of fruit... You're scared the kichel will take out your teeth... Yeah. It's hard... Also, so his friend doesn't get embarrassed. The non-mowed lawn is embarrassing... Now he's embarrassed about the ugly lawn, bringing down property value. Simmy's grass would've been mowed sooner if his neighbor didn't wait till he was dying to tell Simmy he ruined the neighborhood... It's a forest now... That he should leave in peace, as rebuke brings peace. I'm bringing peace by telling you that you messed up.

Tisha BAv is upon us, we need peace. You would've listened to the spies... H' said that we cried about the big grapes, we're now going to cry forever. On Tisha BAv they gave the report... Your kids have to stop crying... It's fruit... That's how you rebuke. You see how I buttered them up. That's what brings peace and redemption. Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelchem's Drasha: The rabbi went a bit too quick from the buttering up into how bad the congregants messed up. He didn't spend much time buttering up. It felt like there was no bread on the outside of the sandwich compliment.

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With Tisha BAv upon us, this is bothersome. Littering at the Kotel has got to stop... Unless if it's H' reading those letters and then dropping them after He finishes.



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