

# THE Kibbitzer



## An Etrog is the only item in which "BiDots" is not kosher.

You get it? Badatz is a kosher certification in Israel. It sounds the same as 'BiDots.' 'Bi' as a prefix can mean 'with,' in Hebrew, and an Etrog can't be with dots. Another amazing bilingual pun.

### RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

**I bought my first non-canvas Sukkah. So, now my walls have nothing on them, and my friend said I have to buy decorations. How can I decorate my Sukkah on a budget?**

Chag Saemach My Pupil. The Sukkah is our home for a good week. As such, we must decorate it. I'm here to help make the task of decorating a joy. I will share with you the Sukkah decorations I've seen in every community that will help bring festivity to your holiday.

•*Fly Tape* Every Sukkah I have seen has fly tape. This is placed there to attract bugs. Don't worry. You don't have to place flies on the tape for décor. The flies will come. Give it an evening.

•*Honey Bucket with Opening* As bees are not attracted to fly tape, many people hang this to draw more bees to the Sukkah. As we welcome the Ushpizin, we welcome bees.

•*Christmas Lights* No Sukkah is fully decorated until the Christmas lights are hung. Tradition is to not buy these until January. Jews don't purchase Christmas products, until after Christmas, when they go on sale. Then, the Hershey's Kisses with the red and green silver foil is a Jewish product.

•*Fruit* It's almost as good as Christmas lights. Known as the Holiday of Harvest, fruit and vegetables are very important to Sukkot. It's Jewish custom to not eat fruit if it's not in pie form. Thus, we celebrate the harvest by hanging it. Some people may eat canned fruit, but I have not seen that hung in a Sukkah yet. If you are going to hang canned fruit, be sure to keep it in the can; otherwise, it drips and then slips right off the fish wire.

•*Gourds* I have no idea when gourds became a decoration. They are the ugliest fruits. For some reason, fruit that looks like a giant tadpole mixed with a toad is the number one Sukkah ornament. Pumpkins would make sense, but Halloween claimed those. Hence, we stick to the weird shaped stuff.

•*Paper Chain* The classic. The number two Sukkah decoration, right behind the creepy fruit of the Lagenaria and Cucurbita family with toad bumps on it. The way to make the paper chain is to cut the paper in strips and then to put one circle in the other. That, my student, is Jewish origami; similar to regular origami. However, we use staples. It's easier.

### SERMON OF REBUKE - HAAZINU

Shabbat Shalom vChag Sameach,  
Did you build your Sukkah yet?... Because you don't listen. I told you to build it right after Yom Kippur... Can't trust you... Can't depend on you guys for anything... We're going to start giving Maftir to the Kiddish Club people... This way you have to be inside for the Haftorah reading... You didn't even check. 15 people left and we had no Minyin for Musaf... I understand social distancing. But, you were sitting together outside... You drank together. So, if it's not in social, you don't need to distance... It's about depending on people... Yes. For Minyin... Want to thank Fitzy for helping with High Holiday seating... Want to thank Broymann, Finkelstein and Goldfarb... Our shul needs to be cooler... It's cooler to use last names... I regret to say, I don't understand a word that is said in this week's Parsha... There is something about heavens listening and the earth hearing. I am not going to lie. This is too much for your rabbi. You hired me because of my charisma. I did give some good sermons for the High Holidays though. You must admit your rabbi did good... I understood the Rashi, which teaches that Moshe called upon the earth and heavens as witnesses. That was in Hebrew... This other stuff about 'chirvivim,' I have no clue... 'As witnesses,' because they will always be there. Fritzky. Unlike the witness in the trial last week of our good friend, Maydit the gambler guy, who backed out of the case for some odd reasons of death threats to his family... The heavens and earth which will reward and

punish us... The earth and heaven didn't threaten anybody. They're Moshe's witnesses... They're not part of the mob. Al Capone wasn't summoning them for a hit... I didn't learn this kind of Hebrew in Hebrew school. I don't even know if this is Hebrew. I learned words like תשמע, אתה, הם, וערך. כתר לקי. I don't know what that is. If it is Hebrew, then it is a different dialect... I would translate it, but I have no clue what's going on... I'm going to study this language, so I can explain it next year. I thought 'vav HaHeepuch', the 'vav' that changes past to future, was complicated enough... All I know is that I can depend on the heavens and the earth. We need witnesses for what I am dealing with... Yom Kippur was messed up... You can't even open the ark right... The heavens were in shock... We need ark lessons. You all space out... That's why none of you would make good witnesses. Moshe couldn't have trusted you... You miss it... You missed it. We had to call your name. We screamed out 'Finkelstein' and you finally came up... you open it the wrong way. Thank Gd there was no dew... 15 minutes later. Can't remember... You're supposed to go up where it says 'open ark.' He said 'Aleynu'... Ark opening rehearsals... I'm going to call on the heavens to be a bit of witness that our congregation is messing up and that we don't deserve dew... Finkelstein. You were yawning during the Ashamnus...

*Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelcherm's Drasha:*

Ark opening lessons went well. In the end, Finkelstein was teaching people how to pull the string. When Finkelstein is awake, he is the best ark opener we have. He kept on saying, 'pull the back one... that's not the right page. You've got to lick your fingers to turn the page, or you're going to miss it... No. The back one...' Only our rabbi could give a sermon about something he knows nothing about.



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