

# THE Kibbitzer

Issue 121



## Since the beginning of Elul, the blowing has been good Shofar.

You get it? So far. Shofar. Instead so far, we wrote 'Shofar'. The Shofar is the horn we blow.

### RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

**Dear Rabbi. I'm trying to figure out the different Nusachs. I grew up Davening Ashkenaz. But as I travel, I want to be prepared. Can you please explain some of the different Nusachs.**

Shalom My Dear Pupil. I shall help. After much research on Wikipedia, here's what I came up with.

- Nusach Ashkenaz* The European Nusach. Thus, most Europeans don't use it. Tunes vary from ancient religious melodies to Simon and Garfunkel and Metallica. Melodies that don't fit the words during the cantor's repetition are an identifying characteristic of the Nusach. In a proper Ashkenaz service, the words do not match the tune. Fitting many words into one note of a Mordechai Ben David melody is what the skilled Chazin does. English readings made their way into the Nusach, as it was felt important members understand a paragraph or two over the course of the three hour Shabbat service.
- Nusach Taiman* Nusach is focused on saying the letter 'Eyin' correctly.
- Nusach Sefarad* Similar to Nusach Ashkenaz, they add in a few words here and there to throw you off. The goal of the Nusach is to make it harder to say Kaddish and Kedusha. Mainly used by Chasidim, they adopted much of the Sefardic prayer style, but never adopted saying Selichot all of the month of Elul. They left that part out.
- Eidut Mizrach* Real Sefardic Nusach. These are the real Sefardim. But they're not from Sefarad. Greatest indication of Nusach Eidut Mizrach: The whole Minyin is saying everything out loud. They were never able to decide on a Chazin. So, each member sitting at the Minyin thinks they're running the thing. And you will say Shir HaShirim.
- Nusach HaGra* The Vilna Gaon took out the prayer 'Baruch H'" from Maariv. He saved us a minute fifteen seconds, and thus we Ashkenazim celebrate his wisdom. Not in favor of the Chasidim, yet he adopted the custom of skipping the prayer. A great Rav. There are other Nusachs. From what I learned, the other people's Nusach is wrong.

### SERMONS OF REBUKE: KI TAVO

Shabbat Shalom My Pupils...  
 You bring your first fruits to Jerusalem... Your neighbors are important. You can make them a fruit basket. Your first fruits go to Jerusalem... You have to give Maaser too. I know it's painful to tithe. You don't make random decisions and just take food like you took over Davening and the honor of opening the ark. There are rules...  
*(Devarim 26:13-15) After you tithe you say before H', 'I have removed the holy from the house, and I have given to the Levis, the convert, the orphan and the widow, like all You have commanded me... I have not transgressed any of the Mitzvot, and I*

*haven't forgotten...'* You would have to lie, Shmuli... Before H' means Jerusalem. Not Topeka. But you can say it in Netanya if you're stuck... Not Mark Levi. The tribe of Levi. Mark takes credit for everything and every Kavod in shul... It's about first giving and appreciating... I said nothing about Donald Trump... What does Trump have to do with what I was saying? Nothing... Trump does not have to bring Bikurim...  
*Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Sermon:*  
 They just take over. We don't need a Gabai. People just take Kavods. Mincha. Shacharit. Nobody asked them. Took it. One went up for an Aliyah. No name. Just went up and did Barchu. One guy took the rabbi's seat at Kiddish. Sat in the rabbi's chair. He took initiative and became rabbi. Nobody said a thing. All assumed he took over the rabbiship. Nobody took the Kavod of cleaning the sanctuary. They forgot that Kavod. People have to laugh at bad Shofar blowing. At Minyin this week, it sounded like the shofar blower let one rip. Everything the rabbi says comes back to Trump. Anything about sinning, some of the congregants jump to Trump.

## SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You can't just take over the shul. This announcement is meant for Shloimy. You can't take over the Amud and start leading. There are mourners. They have a Chiyuvs. That means, they lead prayers. Not you. From now on, people have to be asked to do Kibudim, honors. People cannot honor themselves and say they were honored.**

**If you're blowing the shofar, please practice. People can't help but to laugh at a bad shofar blow. It sounds like you're sitting behind Bernie and he's bending. And Bernie should not bend in shul.**

**If somebody wants to take a Kavod, here are Kavods you can take: Helping set up Kiddish. Cleaning the shul before Shabbis. Being one of the first ten at Minyin. Visiting the sick during your free time. Paying your dues on time. That's a Kavod most members have not taken yet.**

**Selichot are coming up next Saturday night. The Chazin will be doing his thing. You'll want to avoid shul from midnight till 1:30am.**



Dedicate the Weekly Kibbitzer IN Honor, Memory or Refuah of Your Loved One, and share Laughs in their Merit.  
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