

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 21



My shul is looking for a seasoned Chazzan this Rosh Hashana. Applicants must reveal how much salt and pepper they're wearing. You get it? seasoned means experienced and spices.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Rabbi. I know you moved to Israel. Why did you make Aliyah? Any Aliyah inspiration would help.

My Dear Pupil. I'm happy you asked me this Shaylah. Summer is coming to an end and Israel isn't going to be as hot as it was the past few months. It's time to make Aliyah (move to Israel). Here, I bring you some reasons that helped me make Aliyah. They inspired me. I pray they inspire you.

•*Older Jews Move Someplace Warmer* I was getting older, and at sixty Jews from the US move someplace warmer and change their name to Bernie. I figured, I could move to Jerusalem and live with Americans, or I could move down to South Florida and live with Israelis. I chose the Holy Land.

•*You Don't Have to Work After* receiving some graduate degrees, I realized that people had expectations. As an immigrant, I have accomplished immigrating to Israel, and that's a lot. Anybody asks what I do, with pride, I say, 'I made Aliyah.' I'm proud of it.

•*Fear & Anti-Semitism* I want to thank the anti-Semites. They do the best job of getting Jews to move to Israel. They are much more successful than Nefesh

BNeefesh. My friend from Rochester, New York, said she moved to Israel when Kodak was closing. She wanted to get out of there before they started blaming that on the Jews.

•*Kosher Burger King* The first time I saw the sign I was in awe. 'Whopper' written in Hebrew. Hamburgers ready before I ordered them. I felt something special. I could feel the days of the Messiah upon us. And our redeemer loves Vhoppers.

•*Land of our Ancestors* That was confusing. After I moved, my mom showed me our family tree. I should have moved to Brooklyn.

•*Torah* You care about being a Jew and practicing Mitzvot. Am I wrong for saying that?! It's too much. I offended, pushing the idea of Israel, Torah and Jews. Yishuv HaAretz. Said it.

•*Jewish Homeland* Love is expressed through scolding. For a feeling of intimacy, you need the right people yelling at you. I cannot express the gratitude I have for the Israelis who yelled at me, for reasons I don't know, even if they never met me. I haven't felt that kind of warmth since I left my parents' house. It's our national home. Yelling lets me know that.

SERMON OF REBUKE - KI TAVO

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants, I want to welcome the new Candyman. Our dear tailor, Mr. Heimlowitz... No need to throw candy now. Mr. Heimlowitz... I know it ruins the kids' pants... There's no Mitzvah to jump on the ground for candy... Your kid was dancing on the Bima... It's the middle of my speech... I threw candy so people would think she was up here, crawling, for a reason... Bringing Bikkurim (the first fruits required to be redeemed)... There were baskets... Yes. Wicker... I don't know if they had the doilies or Bar Mitzvah Kippahs in the baskets, like we do in the shul wicker... Doilies are a very important tradition. That's how we tell who the heretics are. Doilies and Bar Mitzvah yarmulkes that don't fit...

(Devarim 26:11) *The Torah teaches 'And you shall "BE HAPPY" with all the good that H' has given you and your house'...* Yes. You put good fruits in the wicker... Because Gd gave it to you. You don't put the cucumbers that have been sitting in the fridge... The bottom gets spoiled. You're going to bring H' your spoiled stuff? Does that make Him happy?... You must be happy... Yes, it says it. A commandment to be happy. You have a house, you selfish, good for nothing, entitled ingrate... You have no right to not be happy... the children of this congregation running around the halls, on the Bima... Deserve? ... Candy at Bar Mitzvahs and Kippahs from decent Bat Mitzvahs they were invited to. They deserve that... They don't deserve... Why is she still running up here? Usually, the dad does the carryout at this point. The quick

pick up and carryout... Yes. It disturbs.... No. Take her. I have no more candy on me. *Rashi says that Happiness meaning a time of happiness. The holidays...* Ever seen yourself in shul on a Chag? It's depressing, Bernie... Then I hear complaints from your spouses. 'I'm slaving... the preparation'... Then help. You think nobody helped carry the Bikurim baskets to Jerusalem? The family helped, Bernie... You should be happy all the time. Gd gave you life. Appreciate it. Eat candy. And stop complaining about the kids' pants... They're in kindergarten. Why Prada?... How do we become happy? See the statement that we declare upon bringing the Bikurim to Jerusalem. H' heard our cry and brought us to Israel. (Devarim 26:5) *'An Aramean (sought to) destroy my forefather'...* You don't want to be sought... Lavan wanted to kill Yakov... Exactly. You remember the bad stuff. That's how you celebrate. Family fights... Happiness comes through sharing the gifts with the Levi and strangers. Bikurim are about sharing, and fighting... When somebody comes to a Bar Mitzvah, you give them yarmulkes or doilies... You throw candy.

Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelchem's Drasha: Monty's International Gift Wicker pulled in tons of money from our congregants after the rabbi's speech. The congregants sent a lot of baskets to Israel... The wicker gift basket idea really killed it for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah kids last year. They got a lot of dried fruit. They couldn't appreciate the gifts or share, as none of their friends wanted dried prunes. They wanted candy... He really did call them ingrates. I was so happy to see that. The kids all think they deserve candy. They get that from their parents that complain about Kiddish... Wasting what you can share is ingrateful. The rabbi said that if you spend 200k on a wedding, that's not a waste. Sharing, it's a Mitzvah. If you eat the 600 plates of halibut yourself, that's not a Mitzvah... The tailor taking on the Candyman position is the smartest business move I have ever seen. He always throws the candies, and even got his phone number printed on the candies.



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