

# THE Kibbitzer

Issue 42



**Unlike a Canaanite slave, if you knock out a Jewish slave's teeth, he doesn't go free. He's only an in'denture'd servant.**

You get it? The Jewish slave's teeth aren't real. Dentures.

## RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

**Dear Rabbi. We're going down to Florida. Thank you for letting us know that is what people do for Yeshiva Week. We want to fit in, no matter it what it costs. What should we be prepared for financially?**

My Beautiful Pupil. Fees. Be ready for a lot of fees. Fees are expenses you didn't even think were a thing. Stuff that makes no sense, you're paying those on vacation. Tips for people you never saw. Tips for the guy who said hello and held the door. You thought he doesn't work there. You're paying. They're called fees.

- You're Going to Get Ripped Off* Even yogurt will feel like you bought dairy from a mechanic. \$1.50 for Chobani. It's 89¢ at Shmuli's Local Bodega. Vacation food fee. They have shot glasses with the name of the city on it.
- Resort Fee* Florida got me on a resort fee. Be ready for this. A forty dollar a night hotel resort fee. The motel got me on a resort fee. No motel has ever been called a resort. They don't have Heimish five star tropical paradise motels for Pesach. The motel staff was shocked when I explained to them, 'An umbrella doesn't make you a resort.'

They made it clear that there was a chair too. They said 'the chair is for lounging. Resort.'

- Car Fees* Rental car guy will get you. Question: If I have insurance, why do I have to pay for insurance?! How did car rental guy still charge me for insurance? Those are questions the rabbis didn't discuss in the Talmud. They are too complicated. I had car insurance and he still got me on car insurance. I drove around all of South Florida. Not one free parking spot.
- You Have to Eat Kosher* That's another two thousand dollars. That's the kosher fee.
- Kids Cost Money* A children fee. No matter what you do, the kids cost more. Be prepared to yell at them. It's tradition. As a Jewish parent, you will. I heard one dad going off, 'We're going to smile.' He demanded smiles. 'I invested a lot of money on family time. Smile!!! I just got a resort fee, because they gave us towels. It's a motel! It is not a resort! And no more Greek yogurt. I can't afford yogurt for everybody. You think I'm made of tips...Sorry, honey. I thought it was all good once we paid for the flight. I thought that was it.' Then dad will get hit with a fee for having a license and parking for too long. Enjoy your vacation.

## SERMON OF REBUKE- MISHPATIM

**S**habbat Shalom My Herd  
(*Shemot 21:1*) 'And these are the decrees...'  
These are the ones. This is it... The ones from Gd, Bernie... I know I came out strong today, but that's OK. You should listen to the decrees... Herd and Flock are the same thing. With my sermons, I am herding you. Like a shepherd... You need herding. I see you guys wandering around... How many of you make it to Minyin on time? I have to herd you. Then I have to herd you to pay your dues. A lot of herding. I hope your hearing the decrees... The Torah portion starts with the servant or slave, depending on which one is politically correct for the congregants to not fire your rabbi. I'm personally offended by servants. I like to call them staff... OK. We'll call them slaves. Does that make everybody happy?... Excellent. (*Shemot 21:2-3*) *If he came in single, he leaves single...* It's a Jewish slave, Bernie. Read the Parsha before the sermons. For crying... It's the first Psukim of the Parsha... *A Jewish slave that is bought. After seven years he 'goes free, no charge'...* The master took his money. He wouldn't be able to pay anyways... You guys can pay your dues. Not giving Tzedakah to the soup kitchen and supporting your shul, is you not living up to your obligation... I'm a slave to this... This stupidity. No more questions. He goes with his wife. He doesn't leave with another wife. He leaves with his wife... It's not like you can just flip wives and gazunta heit, the grandkis have a new Bubby. Read the Parsha, Bernie... I don't know how they chose them. Felvel wouldn't have made a good slave. He saunters. He gives no energy...

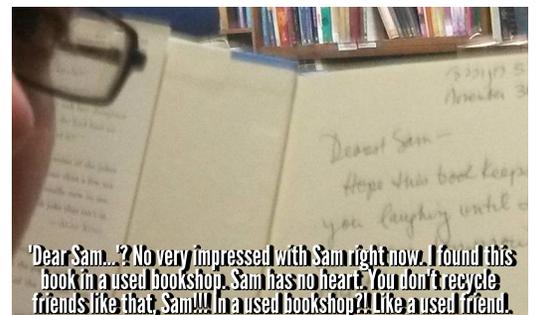
The master may not let him leave with less than he came. He may not diminish this man from what he was. As you have done to your rabbi, with all your complaints.

You don't make your slave less than what he was. I serve this shul... I'm a slave here. My last job, congregants listened. Great Kiddishes. Paid their dues. Volunteered... They gave charity. Volunteered at the soup kitchen. He leaves with what he came. It's pointless years of his life. Kind of like the meeting I had with the board this week... The shul board which has accomplished nothing the last seven years. Seven years of my life, gone... Nothing is gained. (*Shemot 21:4*) *The master gives him a wife, he leaves alone, he leaves single...* His wife stays, His wife is the master's. Kind of like when you take away every good idea we ever had at this shul, Sima... The soup kitchen Kiddish was a great idea. You killed it... You don't walk out with the leftovers, Binyamin. They belong to the Ba'alei Bayit. The people who invited you, it's theirs. If you don't eat during the meal... You don't take it... They can eat it the next day too...

He can leave with his connection to Gd. That's what he's leaving with... You don't get it, we nail your ear to the door... I'm going to pierce everybody in this congregation, right now. Piercings...

You have to pay damages... Not for nailing the slave's ear to the door... If you knock out someone's teeth, you at least give them soup.

*Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:*  
The rabbi was quite contemporary asking the members to use the word 'servant' or 'slave.' He even allowed 'rabbi with bad salary.' Many lessons in slavery. From now on, if a man comes to our shul with a wife, we'll let him leave with her. Kiddish soup kitchen was a bust. Nobody volunteered. The consensus among the congregants was that 'if we're not feeding ourselves, there is no point.' And it was agreed that 90 percent of our congregation doesn't like soup. And they weren't going to start a gazpacho kitchen.



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