

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 3

Almost Lag B'Omer Special



I bought a pair of Tzitzis for a great price. No strings attached.

You get it? Tzitzis/Tallis is the four cornered garment with strings on the edges.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

As Lag B'Omer is this week, little kids are collecting wood, and I heard that they're going to make a fire. I am a bit worried. Some of them are five and six years old. What is this fire tradition? Is it safe?

Beautiful question, my pupil. I appreciate your concern. Let's talk about the Hallel of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai (Rashbi), who passed away on this day, and how you can celebrate.

- Due to the light the Rashbi brought to the world by revealing the mystical layer of Torah, we have children go out and make huge fires without parental supervision. It's a tradition. A Yahrzeit candle isn't big enough to create a Kabbalistic safety hazard... Emunah.
- The kids of Israel collect anything that burns. This includes trees, branches, homes. There's a fine line between a child's understanding of religious vigilante and paying respects to Rashbi. Hide it. Put a sheet over your house, if you must. Stand by your door.

If you're not around for Lag B'Omer, hire a neighbor to protect your villa. The Rashbi would want you to have it.

Comments I overheard from my pupils in my neighborhood last Lag B'Omer:

'Why are we missing our cabinets?' 'Where is the bench? It was just here yesterday.' 'That door belongs on the hinges. Thank you. This is our home.' 'Please put her back. She was sleeping.' 'They burned my door last year. I boarded it up.'

- Some celebrate by playing guitar. That's like a bonfire experience. Nobody played guitar in my neighborhood last year. The kids threw that in the fire.
- Other Lag B'Omer traditions include kids running around with bows and arrows.

As the main focus of the holiday is safety hazards, you can celebrate by leaving your children unattended. You can also recreate a safety hazard in the middle of your home by sticking their Lego in the middle of the floor so they can feel what it is to step on it.

SERMON OF REBUKE - ACHREI >>>

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants

Another double Parsha. I give up... That was not a Kitel. it was a blanket. I knew Frank was reading... I slept... From now on, he's only allowed to read during the week...

Moshe is to tell Aaron, (Vaikra 16:2) 'Do not come to the tent of meeting within the curtain... and you shall not die...' You can't just go... Somebody went into the shul linen closet... I am giving a speech... We don't have a shul choir. No need to have everybody up. Get down... You only come when the Gabai calls you... Proper times... Somebody may die. We'll get Mad Dog back here, and start bouncing more Jews out of shul...

This is told to Aaron, right after his 'sons died' (16:1)... Is this not too close?... We have a duty to not mess up, like the Gabai... calls up Mr. Felsenblum... He Mi Shebeirachs everybody he's ever met. By name... We need to limit the blessings...

(Rashi 16:1) Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah says it is to caution Aaron. It's more powerful to be told that you'll die from cold food, if there's an example of someone who died from cold food... We don't need examples... Mrs. Krynatz's potato kugel was horrific... It was cold and I had to spit it out... 'Don't smoke yourself...' You don't say that at a Shiva, Bernie... OK, Bernie. You teach H' and Moshe proper etiquette...

There are times when Aaron is invited to come to the Holies, like on Yom Kippur. It's about rules and doing things in their right time...

Playing ball is fine outside of the sanctuary... No. You don't go to the doctor in the middle of the Amidah... It's not saving a life when your child sneezes... You went over in the middle of the Torah reading...

How many people in this congregation should be killed because of their poor cooking... Mrs. Krynatz's potato Kugel... It kills... You don't cook weekday choolante... For blessing, we do things in their right time... Wait to get called up to the Torah... Yes. You bring donations... Aaron brought sacrifices... Learn from mistakes and don't give speeches at Shiva house...

Aaron (16:23-24) changes after the sacrifices, in order to enter the Holies clean and with nice clothes... Do it right. You change for shul. I am just saying that our Gabai can use a nicer suit... A tie... After one dies... They have nicer clothes than the Gabai... Michael in jeans...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha: Nobody went near the curtain for two weeks after the speech. Nobody opened the ark, lest they die. The rabbi created new rules: 1) No asking doctor's questions in services. The shul lost too many doctors due to questions about kids' throats. 2) Bernie is not allowed to go to Shiva houses, lest he say something offensive that only Gd should be saying. 3) Mi Shebeirach limit to five persons mentioned.

