

THE Kibbitzer



How did Ha-Shem get the burning bush to ignite? It was a match made in Heaven.

You get it? The bush was from heaven. Sometimes, a pun is about the meaning it brings to your life.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I'm worried about this new COVID variant. It looks like we might be quarantined again. I don't know if I can handle it. All that time with the kids is hard. Any suggestions are appreciated.

My Dear Pupil. The prospect of another quarantine is scary. What's even scarier is the thought of having to spend that time with family. We have to learn from the past. Since the first quarantine, I have come up with some Jewish activities you can do together.

- *Arts and Crafts with Your Children* Do Jewish art with the children. Jewish arts and crafts consists of making holiday objects or a Mezuzah. Those are the two options for the season. I understand you missed Chanukah and making a Menorah out of a slab of wood, but you can still catch Pesach. Make the Seder plate with the children and keep them occupied. Be sure to have them work the chicken and horseradish that isn't kosher for Pesach into their art, so you have an excuse to not use it on Pesach. You never want to show your child's art. That lack of talent is embarrassing to the family.
- *Bake a Challah* Baking Challah is a

- beautiful Jewish tradition. It gets the kids involved, and it gives you chance to yell at them. You're going to get mad. It might as well be for them not kneading fast enough. Yelling is an important Jewish experience, as it brings back memories of preparing for the holidays.
- *Encourage Your Kids to Go Online* Don't try to keep your kids off the web. They're going to see the shmutz during class. The day school's video conference classes will have them online regularly, browsing and binge watching. Watching *The Lord of The Rings* looks like you're engaged on webcam. A decent series is the only way your child will do well in class.
- *Perfect Chance to Watch Shtisel as a Family* When you get into the family fights, put on Shtisel and your kids will appreciate being part of your family.
- *Torah Webinars* If there's another quarantine you want to be ready with excuses to avoid family. Webinars are your chance to learn and not spend time with family while at home. Don't be afraid of quarantining with family again. Celebrate it. Years from now, you'll remember time spent together in the house. And you'll say, 'Thank Gd there is a vaccine.'

SERMON OF REBUKE- SHEMOT

Shabbat Shalom,
We were slaves in Egypt. Remember that. I Remember that when I come to work, every day. I see the guys at Minyin and I remember that. It gets me by... I hear mom's saying, 'I am slaving.' If cooking with an oven on 375 and a timer is slaving... At least they remember it, Ben. We were slaves. The least you can do is give charity... You try to hide from it, Yitzi. You were doing Tachnun. Your head was in your arm. You were hiding from the Tzedka box... I know the Tachnun prayer calls for that. It was still the Amdiah... No money on you? Mr. Freustein. You're the biggest mogul in this region. You can't find a dollar... You can give a hundred to the Pushkeh Tzedakah Box... It's not a Jewish tradition to never give more than a dollar. Chanan was taking change the other day... Leave it in, Chanan. So, you give five dollars. That's fine... Always a dollar. Give a hundred if that's all you have Freustein... Tzedakah is charity. You were slaves. Give... Remember you had it bad... Seeing the congregants. I have it bad... That's why I treat people nicely, Bernie. You have to remember you had it bad. I suffer every day, to remind me that I have to be kind to other people. I look at Bernie, and realize that I can't be that annoying... the Zimlowitz Bar Mitzvah had it bad. Gifts were all from the Dollar Tree... Nobody in this congregation ever gives more than a dollar to the charity box... I know everybody does it. It's not a tradition to make sure poor people only get a dollar. Ma'ser. Tithing is important. It's not even yours... Like Paroh. You think it's all yours. You're worried

the poor people will have it good. Just like Paroh... You could give money to the shul. Nobody here has it good. Look at Shlomo. He's sitting next to Frank.

You have to remember you were slaves, so you can be fine with other people not being like the Himmelmans. Everything in the Himmelman house is house is messed up. I saw the candelabra. It's purple... You're not working forensics Himmelman.

In the beginning of the Parsha, we see all the generations that led to Paroh not knowing them, turning the Jews into slaves. When I look at the shul plaques, I see all the great people who led to no Jews wanting to live in Topeka and the messed-up quilt on the ark... It's a messed up Parochet. You don't use a community quilt to cover the ark... The Torah is not cold, Fran. Slaves are cold... Give the quilt to a poor person. They won't take your job. Is that what this is about?...

There's tradition... (*Shemot- 1:8*) 'And a new king arose in Egypt that did not know Yosef.' This the problem. New. Forgetting the past. Not knowing how to embroider. A new ark cover that makes no sense... You're bad at crocheting. This shul can't knit. Everybody here should be wearing the satin glow in the dark Yarmulkes... Neon purple... They're safer at night, Bernie. Knit Kippahs look bad in this shul. Stop with new... Tradition. A decent ark cover, and give people more than a dollar...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:
The rabbi's message was that without tradition we're all slaves to the shul's board. If we can't get better at knitting, we'll never be free. Knitting and crocheting is at the root of our people. The rabbi told the Tzedakah Gabai to stand there until they put money in the box. Stand right in front of them, with the box, and stare at them. The rabbi told him to follow them home if he has to. As the rabbi said, 'They will break. They will never give more than a dollar. But they will break.' I don't get the purple light in Himmelman's dining room. It's wrong. When I eat there, I feel like my plate is part of a crime scene. I felt bad eating the brisket. It looked like evidence.



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