

THE Kibbitzer



Why did the Jews want to leave Egypt? Because the juice was bad... Mitz Ra'im.

You get it? Mitz Ra'im means bad juice. Egypt is Mitzrayim. Another brilliant bilingual Biblical pun. We stayed away from the Jews juice pun, because we have high standards.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I want to travel to Israel this year, but I'm scared of the seven day quarantine. Should I buy tickets, even if I can't tour?

My Dear Pupil. Buy the tickets and visit the Holy Land. I understand your fear, but in Israel, you quarantine as a nation. Here's my experience when I quarantined at Israel's Corona Hotel.

•*I was scared* It's scary to be in solitary confinement in a five-star hotel with a bath. I was expecting an Israeli hotel breakfast buffet. They dropped a bag at my door. A rationed bag of food. This hurt the hotel experience. Yes. I complained. People deciding what cheese I should eat? I need choices, and the corona buffet didn't have that. It was hard. I started to hate cottage cheese. Then, I was stuck washing my clothes in a sink. I can't hand wash. I don't twist enough. I smelled like Badin detergent suds for a week.

•*Shabbis Came* Shabbat candles brought light to my darkness. I left my room to light candles in the lobby. For the sake of Shabbat and not lighting my room on fire, I was able to interact with people. Other people that also don't like cottage cheese anymore.

•*We Prayed Together in Isolation* They said, 'You must stay out of your room to join Minyin.' I said, 'Yes. If me leaving my room is a requirement, I will be there.' I let them know I would join, as long as I didn't have to hand wash their clothes. We had an Oneg Shabbat. The first guy who took cashews loved the Oneg. After he touched them, they were his.

•*Everybody Became Religious* Everybody became religious. Once the Chilonim, secular Jews, realized they can leave their rooms, they joined the Minyin. They were early. They were devout. They focused on Tefillot. In the end, the secular Israelis felt so comfortable that they also had no problem talking during the services. Chabad has been trying for years to put Tefillin on people. One week of quarantine is the best outreach I've ever seen. Being quarantined in Israel was the greatest experience of my life. Only in Israel do people share their quarantine with other people, uniting with other people who are legally isolated. Everything beautiful about living in Israel was seen at the quarantine hotel, how we isolated as a community. Book your ticket. Skip the Kotel and go to the Corona Hotel.

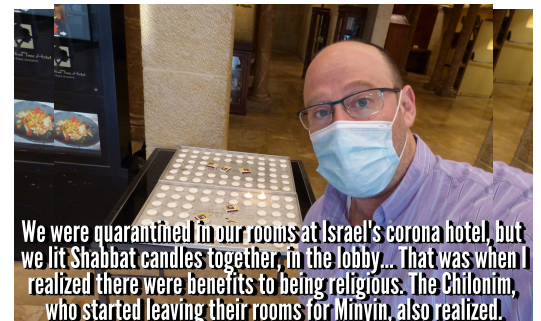
SERMON OF REBUKE- VA'EIRA

Shabbat Shalom My Congregant,
Why are there no people? Because COVID came up again... Another variant. I don't know the science behind it, Bernie. I just know that people are depressed... a government order that people should be depressed and shouldn't show up to shul... Is it slavery? I don't know. Their variants of Paroh. Little variants that cause a tiredness amongst the people of our community... Not showing up to the shul is not a variant. There is no 'I won't pay dues' variant.... What other excuses do you have for not coming to shul?! The Kiddish has been good recently. H' commands Moshe to take the Jews out of Egypt. Moshe is called upon to begin the greatest revelation of all time. Recognition of H' by a nation and the world. I should take the Jews out of this shul. That would be a great revelation of not dealing with the board... No more having to listen to messed up Torah readings by Bar Mitzvah boys who don't practice. Laziness isn't the 'lack of spirit' Jews had... We don't need cheerleaders. This isn't a sporting event. The Bar Mitzvah kids need to not be lazy... They're blaming COVID for not being able to read the portion. They don't come to shul... I think a choir is enough to draw people. We don't need cheerleaders... Why does Moshe give in so easily? (*Shemot 6:9*) Moshe tells the people that H' will 'take them out of Egypt with an outstretched arm... to be a nation. 'And they did not hear (listen to) Moshe, from lack of spirit and hard work'... You haven't worked for years, Bernie. You retired thirty years ago... Your laziness is killing me. I need somebody to take me out

of this congregation... When totally down and abused, it's hard to see the future. Here, it was a nation of negative thought, and Moshe was affected.. We have just sat through a 15 minute kaddish. The Chazin has abused us... Yes. Our synagogue has spirit, as we saw in the last inter-shul choolante cookoff, when our synagogue was the loudest singers of 'We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how about you?' We were strong there. We had hope. The other congregations didn't even sing back. They have not spirit and they are not losers.... But that is what spirit is about. We had it. How do we get that back?... Their depression hit Moshe. Being a rabbi here... What about another variant? You can't let the past bring you down. I will not let this variant enslave this congregation... You're worried. It's the winter time. Sniffles come... (*Shemot 6:2-5*) H' appears to Moshe as 'H', 'His name of truth (Rashi). With Moshe, H' fulfils the covenant with the Jewish people. Truth is the fulfillment of a promise. We have to fulfil the truth of H's promise to our forefathers. As a Bar Mitzvah, don't mess it up for your ancestors. You are here to fulfil being a decent Jew, unlike your parents. Don't let them down and read Torah like you did today... Don't be like the board. Be a good member of our nation... You're not going to be a Moshe. We know that...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:

The choolante cookoff was a glimmer of hope for the congregants. There was a Minyin in shul, as the rabbi blackmailed the men into coming. I was the only one in the women's section. I think this is the fourth variant of members not coming this year. We've had variants of people not showing up for the past eight years. The rabbi's message that the shul members are not tired, but lazy, was brilliant. The problem was that half the ten guys that showed up fell asleep during the sermon. They didn't get the message. The rabbi shouldn't have mentioned the cheerleader idea. The shul's next religious bachelor Shabbat, had girls cheering 'Shlomo' when he got up for the Aliyah. The Gabai called him up and before anybody could say 'Amen,' the girls where cheering 'Go!!! Shlomo! If you can't do it, no one can. Shlomo's got spirit...' That caused a big ruckus. The Gabai told the cheerleaders, 'Gd can.'



We were quarantined in our rooms at Israel's corona hotel, but we lit Shabbat candles together, in the lobby... That was when I realized there were benefits to being religious. The Chilonim, who started leaving their rooms for Minyin, also realized.

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