

THE Kibbitzer

Tu BAv Edition of Love
Shabbat Nachamu Special



When you can't read your notes at the memorial service, it can be emotions or Yahrzeit.

You get it? The Yahrzeit is the yearly day of commemoration of one's passing. Said fast. It's pronounced 'your site.' A dark pun for Shabbat Nachamu.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Tu BAv is this Shabbat and I am not married. My friends are married.

What should I do? How should I feel?

My Dear Pupil. Bad. If you're feeling bad, that's a good start. Asides from Tu BAv being the Jewish holiday of marriage and love, I will share with you more reasons you should get married.

- Married People Invite You and Feed You- Single people invite you for dinner, and then they invite you to bring the food. I was invited by our single friend and heard this: "You are coming? Maybe you want to bring the kugel... A little extra chicken and brisket. We're not inviting you for nothing." That and a request for dessert is the usual discussion you get as a guest at a single man's home. I have been to a dinner where we had to bring our own chairs. Married people have chairs.
- Don't Have to Sit at the Kids Table- I don't know how this works. I guess they think 8 year olds and 40 year olds are all single so we should sit them together. I believe that is the chuchma. I personally don't like talking about Barney the Purple Dinosaur and slime, but I do like chicken fingers.
- You Can Wear A Tallit Shawl & Head

Covering- You're not a freak. Women with no head covering and men with no prayer shawl at shul are branded as losers. When you don't have a Tallit, people in shul are staring at you. Suddenly you get married and you can wear the uniform, no questions. Nobody will ask you what you are looking for. In shul, I'm usually looking for a Siddur and what page we're on. If a man is there for you, while you're looking, amazing! A miracle.

•Somebody to Scream At- There is so much frustration in daily life. When you are not married, you have nobody to scream at.

•To Not Get Old Alone- It's depressing to look in the mirror and see you're getting old. This way, after you look in the mirror, you can see somebody else that looks real bad too.

•Decent Food for Dinner- Once you marry somebody starts cooking. Don't know who. When you're single you live off peanut butter and Wacky Mac. I can't explain but once you're married, there's freshly cooked food every night. Baked cookies somehow appear. This is why Jewish people get married. They want dinner. A full dinner that they don't have to carry a chair to. This Tu BAv should be a Nechama and you should get married.

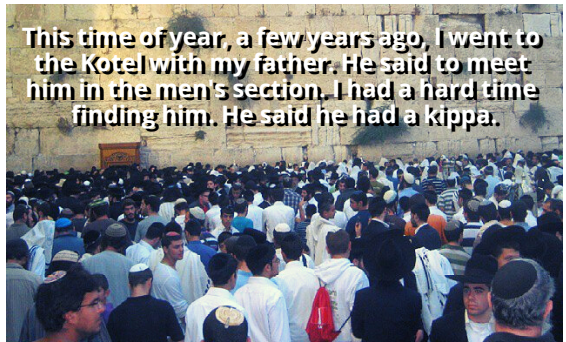
SERMON OF REBUKE - VAETCHANAN

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants, Moshe's about to die, so the people finally listen to him. They don't interrupt... Can I just give the speech, Bernie?... No complaining for the first time... they would've been complaining about water again. You know what I go through with the board?! We ran out of soda at Kiddish... Drink water. There's no drought here, Karen. We've got a fountain... Moshe tells them about how he prayed to H'. He prayed to enter the Land of Israel. But they messed it up for him. Do you know how many vacations you messed up for me? I was supposed to be in Israel this summer. You didn't let me see it... The prayer didn't fully work. Moshe doesn't get to go to Israel. His congregation held him back... I also didn't get to The Mountains this summer... *He wants to go Jerusalem, the good mountain (Devarim 3:25, Rashi)*. I wanted to go to Haifa and the Golan too. The board killed that vacation. Moshe can't go, but he gets to see it... As we know, praying doesn't always get you what you want. Our kid's team lost again... How much praying can we do for Pinny to hit a foul shot?... Shimon would've loved to visit Israel too. But he is no longer with us... He passed. It's his Yahrzeit A few minutes about a Tzadik... He didn't talk during prayers. You guys prayed for him... Do a better job. You don't focus. I've seen your Amidah... If you said Tehillim right... Moshe knew that he was not allowed to enter the land. He still asks for a gift. *Rashi (Devarim 3:23) says, VaEtchanan, the word used for prayer in the Pasuk, comes from the word 'chanun,' and that is the language of a 'free gift.'* Moshe is asking for a free gift. A gift in which he wasn't deserving. A Tzadik and he is begging H' to have compassion to give him a gift... You don't deserve the Care Bear. You lost the ring toss at the Chanukah carnival last

year... Get over it. We care. And you lost at Simon Says. I beat you... We don't deserve anything. It's a gift from Gd... No. You pay dues. Gd gives you the money to pay your dues... We're not entitled. He is teaching us that we have to pray for our gifts... Of life, Bernie... It comes from Gd's kindness. The home, job, kids... So you lose sleep and your savings... Rachel is single. We have to pray for her. She needs a gift from Gd... She needs Gd's help. Look at her. It's Tu BAv. This is her chance... We're going to say Tehillim right now... Instead of Israel, Moshe is told to strengthen Yehoshua. The same way I try to strengthen the Gabai... I setup a great training program, but he never hits the gym. His hagba is horrendous... What's Moshe's first move? To talk about Mitzvot... Yehoshua's strength is Jews keeping Mitzvot. I'm weak right now, cause Simmy sins... If you said better Tehillim, the Gabai would be able to carry a Torah... Strength depends on the congregants. Don't blame me for the messed up shul BBQ... I told them 'hamburgers'... *As Perek Daled starts (4:1) '...hear the decrees and laws that I teach you today to do'...* Yes. You have to do them... Rachel. There's a simple commandment to have kids... As Shabbat Nachamu is upon us, somebody should have compassion for Rachel. Find her a Shidduch. She needs help/ Pray for her soul. May there be Nechama and may we merit a shul trip to Israel soon.

Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelchem's Drasha:

We sung, 'Nachamu Nachamu Ami.' Nobody understood it, but it was meaningful. Everybody's eyes were closed. You could see they all connected and meant it. It's the lack of understanding the words that makes it more meaningful... The rabbi had explained the concept of prayer being a free gift. It took a while for people to understand that if you pay for it, it's not a gift. Costco's new ad about the gift of saving money and paying less for shoes and mixed nuts, had them confused... There's still a lot of entitlement in shul. All think they deserve meat in their choolante, and nobody shows up early enough to shul to pray for it... Everybody took the Tehillim for Refuah comment seriously. They wanted to get paid to say the prayers for people.



Shabbat Nachamu is sponsored in honor of 'Reb Shaya' Kilimnick, R' Yeshaya Ben Yechezkel ZT"L, who moved to Olam Hanishamot a year ago. His smile, laugh and sense of humor are always with us.