

THE Kibbitzer



Why did they say Psalms for the sick man? Because they wanted To-HEAL-him.

You get it? We say Tehillim (psalms) for sick people. You want to heal them. Avraham wasn't well after the bris...

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

I am sending my child to a Jewish day school, and I am interested to know how Chunuch works. How do Jewish kids learn?

My Dear Pupil, Candy. That's how Jewish kids learn. Let me explain:

•*Honey on First Letter of The Torah*

When a child first learns Torah, we put honey on the first letter, a 'Bet,' so that the child will see the Torah as sweet. The child licks that first letter and they love it. I am not suggesting your child necessarily do this. Sometimes kids end up thinking the proper way to read is by licking. Our oldest licked the letter and was walking around with a piece of the page stuck to his tongue for a couple of days.

This may be why many Torah scrolls get messed up. Honey is sticky, and it can get into the parchment. But we do that for the kids, because Jewish education comes first. You don't put broccoli on the first letter of the Torah. You want the child to love the Torah. This tradition was developed before Paskesz invented candy. Otherwise, we would be putting rainbow sour sticks on the first letter of the Torah.

•*Kids go to Shul for Candy* Ever been

in shul for a Bar Mitzvah? Hundreds of children crawling on the floor by the Bimah, diving for candy. Nobody knows where they come from. I know how they show up. Candy. Word gets out. Random children come in from the park. Kids that aren't even Jewish; they find slacks and jump into shul. After the candies are all picked up from the whipping the Bar Mitzvah boy with candies ceremony, not one child can be found. They disappear.

•*The Candyman* There is even a position for this guy at shul. Growing up, I loved shul because of candy. You put 'candy' before 'man' and that is someone who is loved, and educating the children. Someone you can connect with. Example of fine Jewish education: 'What are the names of our forefathers Mr. Bergerman?' 'Here is a candy.'

•There are more ways to educate. You can hop from Sukkah to Sukkah for candy. As long as there is candy, education can happen anywhere. To quote my rebbe, 'Every learned Jew has snorted Paskesz plastic fruit sugar.' To this day, I am shocked that schools don't focus more on sweets for their lunch program. It should be proteins, greens and fruit gems.

SERMON OF REBUKE - VAYEIRA

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants, Avraham was sick, but he still had guests. He wanted to do a Mitzvah, even when he was sick. Jessica won't take in a guest when she stubs a toe... Just look at the beginning of the Parsha... Angels are guests too... He was circumcised and he still took in guests, three days later... I know people get out of surgery fast nowadays, but you give at least a week... You have the hiccups, you don't have guests for two weeks... It might have been a chutzpah to visit without calling first... They didn't have phones then, Bernie. They were doing a mitzvah. The shuls Bikur Cholim committee hasn't visited anybody in the past month and a half... If everybody on the Visiting the Sick committee is sick, what good is it?... *It was the heat of the day and he was sitting there, circumcised, waiting for guests (Bereishit 18:1).* He was sitting in the heat of the day. You won't even leave your car in August, because it's air-conditioned... No matter which side you are on, you've got to put in the effort. Jessica, listen. The food Avraham gave his guests was excellent. It was tasty. I was at the Friedblums for Shabbat dinner. The food was not that good. I would not call that Hachnasat Orchim... *(Bereishit 18:6-8) 'Kemach Lushi'...* That's good stuff. Fine flour. Not the rough Challah. It wasn't the village bread. It was fluffy... Yeah. I like village bread. But that's a side dish. It was bread... *'he took a calf, tender and good.'* It wasn't the bad stuff. It wasn't the first cut that the Friedblums had. It had a decent amount of fat. Good taste...

You don't serve meat and then say you want to lose weight... Vegan meat is not meat, even if they call themselves a butcher... *He took butter and milk...* It might've been the 'I can't believe it's not butter.' Maybe it was margarine. Maybe those laws weren't laws yet. Maybe he understood the laws of 'don't cooke a kid in its mother's milk' literally, at that time. Maybe he served the milk first... I was invited out last week with my wonderful family, to a mishpacha in this community. Mr. Grunfeld, please tell me. Do you call what was served for dinner Hachnasat Orchim? The mitzvah of welcoming your guests? *'Avraham hurried... ran to the cows'...* He wanted to feed his guests. You don't make them wait... If you have to, use a microwave, you use a microwave... Nobody is coming for conversation... Then you go to the bodega, Makolet (whatever you want to call it). You don't go grocery shopping once your guests have already showed.

You had guests and that was good. We appreciate that. However, for educational purposes, do you consider chicken that is dried out to be welcoming? Quinoa?! You call that food?!... Avraham asked H' to wait for him, as he welcomed guests. I am still trying to understand why the Grunfelds decided to give such a lengthy Dvar Torah. So boring. We wanted to eat and nobody cares what little Shloimy learned in cheder/school...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:
The rabbi started a fundraiser to put together a cookbook for those who want to do Hachnasat Orchim correctly, with decent food. It's called the 'How to Not Cook Like the Members of Beis Kneses Anshei Emes uSefilah Cookbook'. With all the talk of Hachnasat Orchim, the rabbi didn't complain that the Grunfelds didn't sing at the table. The members in our shul can't sing. Due to boredom, the rabbi also wrote a lengthy letter to the school, telling them to stop sending home Parsha notes and Dvrei Torah to read at the Shabbat table. The vegan butcher is still a debate. The rabbi says it's Ma'aras Ayin to call anything vegetarian a butchery. As the new Gabai, who loves puns, said, 'They're butchering the butcher.'



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