

# THE Kibbitzer

Issue 41



## The guide dogs that wandered with the Jews were called Seen-eye Dogs.

You get it? Mount Sinai. Seeing eye sounds like Sinai, if you pronounce it in proper Hebrew. A phonetic pun.

### RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

**D**ear Rabbi. Yeshiva Week is here. We know you must go to Florida. We can't afford it. What do we do?

My Beautiful Pupil. Stay home. Come up with fun activities, like painting a dollhouse with your kids. They may lose friends. That's OK. You don't want to take the kids skiing, cause of friends. That money can go to future Florida. You're not alone. Other people didn't invest correctly either, and their kids hate them too. Start saving for your Florida trip with the kids in 2025, now. You think you're alone because people who talk about vacation are the ones who went to Florida. Nobody is telling you about visiting family. That looks pathetic. Note: No dad likes Yeshiva week. The kids should know, if dad is smiling, he's mad. He's thinking about how he's going to have to work time and a half. Let me empathize with you and tell you why I couldn't afford Florida. This should give you Chizuk.

•*Jews Go Down to Florida* I had to go. It's tradition to go to South Florida in the winter, and I'm a good Jew. Good Jews go to Florida when it's cold. You go to Israel for the pilgrimage festivals. You go to Florida for the winter.

•*I Can Afford the Flight* I had no idea I would have to pay for stuff once I got to Florida. I heard they were kind people down there. What we call Ba'alei Chesed.

•*Hotels Cost Money* I didn't realize I had to pay for stuff once I got there, like a place to sleep. Hotels cost money. Calling \$1,000 a night for a family 'hospitality' is a mockery of Hachnasat Orchim, welcoming guests. It's bad Chinuch. After all the money spent on Jewish Day School, you don't teach children that you charge four figures for lodging when you have guests. Avraham Our Father wasn't in the tent business for the money.

•*I Didn't Plan Right* plan a vacation right. I should've started a mutual fund years ago, before the five days in Florida. I had spent all my vacation funds. I bought Tefillin.

•*Go Down To Florida and Visit* I don't have vacation money. I have visitation money. Go on a visitation to family. They don't want your six kids, you're still coming for Shabbis. That's the Jewish way. Vacationers visitate for Shabbis... We need Yeshiva Week scholarships. There's school scholarships. What happens when grandparents don't pay for vacation?

### SERMON OF REBUKE- YITRO

**S**habbat Shalom My Flock  
'And Moshe went out to greet his father-in-law' (Shemot 18:5). Do you go out to greet... You don't even say goodbye. You make sure he leaves the house and you lock the door behind him... It's a Halacha to walk somebody four Amot out of the house. Six feet... You look through the peep hole to make sure he's gone. You make sure he's gone six feet.

(Shemot 18:8) 'And Moshe told the story to his father-in-law' of the leaving of Egypt.

He sees the goodness. Even on Pesach, you can't appreciate H's goodness. You hate the Seder. Every question is, 'Why are we finished eating already on all other nights? Why on this night have we not started yet?'... All complaining. Yitro sees the good... The story went over great, because he listened.... You people never listen to the sermon...

Rashi says he told the story in order to bring his father-in-law closer to the Torah... No.

Your stories push people away. They're bad jokes, Hymie. They push people away... Anshei Sinah didn't have to poach Merv. He left. Your stories pushed him away from our shul...

Yitro connected... I also can't connect with Hymie's jokes about mother-in-laws... We don't know if Moshe's mother-in-law liked him... He doesn't mention her being a nag...

(Shemot 18:9) 'And Yitro became one with all the good...' he connected with it, because he was listening. That is why it was good... There is no good here right now. Not even the rugulach at Kiddish. The Tu BShvat Seder was blah... The only positive is that we were able to poach back some of the members

'VaYichad,' and he became one, according to your rabbi's translation. You cannot become one without listening, without connecting. He became one because he became emotionally involved... It was Kyle's Bar Mitzvah and you didn't even realize it... He's your son, Berel. Your speech to your son was about Frank's hole in one...

Rashi translates the word 'VaYichad' as 'It made Yitro happy.' Yitro connected, and that comes with happiness... Nobody is happy here. When you don't say 'Hi,' for some reason, people don't connect... Nobody is happy to see you Melvy. You don't smile. You chase people away. And then make sure they're gone. You make them not want to be one with you... Keeps father-in-law away. His son-in-law brought Nachis. Kyle brought no Nachis at his Bar Mitzvah... Worst reading... Brings the grandkids. Gershom and Eliezer. (18:3-4) I was a sojourner, and Gd was with me... What does Kyle mean, Berel?... No Nachis. That's what the name means... You didn't even name him after somebody. If Yitro was alive now, he would not want to be Jewish... Bernie. If he saw you... He wouldn't want to identify. The sisterhood's kiddish... It was stew. We eat choolante... What miracle has taken place in this congregation? Frank's hole in one. I think that was the last miracle over here... That story...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:

We do need to be nicer in this shul. People only want to join a congregation where people are nice. The stories mean nothing. However, the hole in one had everybody enamored for weeks last spring. That's all we could talk about. I felt bad for the Bar Mitzvahs. Kyle had it hard. There were many Mazel Tovs, but Kyle didn't get one. The hole in one was the real pride of the congregation that season. I think there was a Bris, and they decided to name the golf ball. Thanks to the rabbi's advice, I started walking my guest six feet out of the house, to make sure they were gone. I don't think the congregants got the rabbi's message. They weren't listening.



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