

A Joke With A Lesson

"Hey, Zalmon, what do you do for a living?" Shimmy asked.

"I own a cow, and I sell its milk."

"Really? You make a living from ONE cow? Doesn't it cost a fortune to feed?" Shimmy answered, "Not at all! I feed it six gallons of milk every day."

Shimmy looked confused. "You feed your cow MILK? Okay... and how much milk does it produce?" Shimmy said, "Also six gallons."

"You feed it six gallons and get back six gallons?! How do make money?!"

"Oh, you bet there's money! I buy six gallons of cheap non-kosher milk, feed it to my cow, and get back six gallons of fresh CHALAV YISRAEL kosher milk! That's where I make my money...!"

What's The Lesson? We can take what comes our way and turn it into something better. In life, we can either just GO through our experiences, or we can choose to GROW through them!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

Once the son of the Mashgiach, R' Matsiyahu Salomon ztl, complained to his father about something he had tried to do, but it didn't work out. "I tried so hard, and it didn't work out!"

How To Be Successful!

R' Matsiyahu answered him gently, but powerfully, "I want to tell you something. You know that I try to do many things. Most of the things I really want to accomplish don't turn out exactly the way I hoped. So why do people say that I'm successful?"

The Mashgiach paused, and then said, "You know why? Because I don't give up when I try and something doesn't work out. I don't let it stop me. I get back up, keep going, and continue with my avodas Hashem!"

What's The Lesson? As winter begins, there are so many new opportunities to GROW and so much potential waiting for us! Try a new shiur, chavrusa, or Torah class. And if something doesn't work out, MOVE FORWARD!

This Connects To This Week's Parashah:

Kayin and Hevel both brought a korban, but only Hevel's was accepted, as he brought a better korban. Kayin became very angry, sad, jealous, and embarrassed that his korban wasn't accepted. Hashem spoke to Kayin and asked, "Why are you sad? Why has your face fallen?" Hashem was teaching Kayin the secret of how to react after a failure: Don't stay stuck in the past. Learn from it and MOVE FORWARD! Now is the best time to keep going and make sure your FUTURE will be better! The problem is when we let that failure STOP us! (Based on Sforno and R' Noach Isaac Gelbaum Shlita)

How to stay Connected!

Yom Tov is over. Tzadikim have taught that Yom Tov is never really over. Yom Tov goes into us and becomes part of us! But still, the feeling can be scary. No more special davening, beautiful tunes, or powerful Yom Tov moments. Suddenly, it's back to "normal." I recently visited my parents, who should be healthy and strong, and they got a new refrigerator. I opened it to take something, pushed it closed, and walked away. By mistake, it didn't close all the way and was left a bit open. About two minutes later, BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! The refrigerator started ringing! It was warning me: The door is still open! The cold air is escaping, the temperature is changing, DO SOMETHING before everything inside starts getting warm!

What's The Lesson? We just finished such a beautiful journey: Elul to Simchas Torah. It is so scary that just a few days after we were dancing, we may feel the temperature dropping, not just physically, but spiritually. The inspiration can slowly begin to cool off. It's almost as if we hear that refrigerator ringing inside us: BEEEP! Don't let all that beautiful Yom Tov warmth escape!

This Connects To AFTER Yom Tov:

The Yom Tov season is behind us, but how do we keep that warmth ALIVE?

The Mishnah says that after Klal Yisrael spent seven days with Hashem, Hashem said, "It is hard for Me to separate from you. Stay with Me for one more day!"

Question: What do you gain from ONE more day? We still have to leave after that day!

Answer: R' Yitzchak Hutner ztl explains that final day is connected with our celebration of the Torah. Hashem is giving us the SECRET of how we can remain close even when Yom Tov ends: by learning and staying connected to the TORAH! Through learning His Torah, we stay connected and can have that closeness with us ALL WINTER LONG!

ת"ב

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This is not meant to rule practical *halachah*; rather, it's to show the sweetness of learning.

Based on R' Yitzchak Zilberstein's *seforim*

Q. My Dear Son!

Ari's parents were not frum yet, but Ari became inspired through a kiruv organization. Slowly, his life began to change. He became frum and started keeping all the mitzvos.

His parents were not exactly jumping for joy about all the changes, but they accepted him and continued to support him.

Ari's father loved his backyard garden. He was always planting or watering. Sadly, most of the time, he did his gardening on Shabbos.

One day, Ari's father called him with a small favor. "I am going away for a few days. Could you water the plants every day? Of course, I wouldn't ask you to do it on Shabbos! Just take care of them during the week. Okay?"

Ari smiled. His father respected his Shabbos and wasn't asking him to do anything wrong. It sounded simple enough.

Then Ari stopped. WAIT A MINUTE! Many of these plants were PLANTED on Shabbos!

His father wasn't asking him to break Shabbos, but was he allowed to water during the week something that was planted on Shabbos?

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlitai!

A. Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmakt!!!

1) Chazal say (Gittin 53b) that if one planted on Shabbos, on purpose or by mistake, it must be uprooted after Shabbos (See Mishnah Berurah Beur Halacha 318:1).

The Steipler Gaon explains that it has to be uprooted because the plant that continues to grow during the week is a continuation of the chilul Shabbos. Also, R' Zilberstein pointed out that its very existence is a chilul Hashem, and it would be unthinkable to let Ari keep watering it.

2) Although he has a mitzvah of honoring his father, Chazal say that both the father and son are obligated to honor Hashem. Therefore, one should NOT listen to his father when he tells him to do something against Hashem.

Rashi says this doesn't apply only to chilul Shabbos, but to any mitzvah in the Torah or even a rabbinic mitzvah (See Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 240:15).

3) Still, Ari should try to keep Shabbos without being disrespectful to his father.

One way is to uproot the flowers during the week, *without the father knowing*, and then replant them. Once the flowers have been uprooted, they are considered dead, and the original chilul Shabbos has ended. Then, when he replants them, they become 'permitted' and 'kosher' flowers that can be watered.

If it is not possible to uproot and replant them, then he has no choice but to explain the problem respectfully and say he would love to do anything he can to help, but he cannot go against the halacha by watering flowers planted on Shabbos. If the father doesn't accept this, he can try to explain from an emotional perspective that it would make him feel very bad and depressed to water the flowers planted on Shabbos.

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Why Are So Many People Sad?

R' Noach Weinberg zt"l was once giving a shiur and told someone to repeat a few times, "Hashem loves me."

After the shiur, someone asked R' Noach, "Why did you keep asking him to repeat those words?"

R' Noach asked him, "Do you love me?" He said, "Yes."

"Why do you love me?" R' Noach asked. The person said, "I have my reasons."

R' Noach said, "I will tell you why you love me: because you know that I LOVE YOU! And this is how one can learn to really love Hashem, by recognizing how much He loves us!

What's The Lesson? The more we look for and recognize His love for us, the more we will also LOVE Hashem!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

At the beginning of creation, each day, after creating the sun, the moon, the animals, and the fish, etc., it says, "It was good." But after the sixth day, the Torah says, "It was VERY good." What's so special then?

Chazal say it is referring to the yetzer hara, that the yetzer hara is very good.

Question: Really? How's it VERY GOOD? It makes life so much more challenging! **Answer:** The reason the yetzer hara is called VERY good is that, by fighting it and overcoming challenges, WE can become VERY good!

Everyone is looking for ways to be happy. But there is no quick, easy way. Real pleasure can only come from growing.

Enjoying a good meal or any other short-term pleasure isn't real happiness. It's good for a few minutes or a few hours, but it's comfort! *Easy come, easy go.*

Real happiness can come after we push ourselves, accomplish something difficult, and become even BETTER - from growing! The saying, 'no pain, no gain' is very true! Today, the whole world is looking for the most comfortable way of life; perhaps that's why so many people aren't happy today.

Yiddishkeit is all about growing! The more difficult the challenge, the bigger the opportunity to grow, which also helps one be happier through the pleasure that comes from growing! (Based on the Piasczno Rebbe Hy"d.)

Our Generation

The Satmar Rebbe zt"l said, in the name of the Zohar, that it says "and Hashem saw everything that he created and it was very good" this is coming to include the last generations.

Hashem is telling us that yes, even in our last generation before Mashiach, with all the challenges we have, where some may think, "look at how I am, what is my learning or davening even worth?"

But Hashem looks at a Yid in our generation, fighting through really difficult challenges, and calls that "not good but VERY GOOD!"

Instead of asking, "Why is Hashem giving me this challenge?" we can remind ourselves, *Hashem loves me*, and He is giving me a chance to GROW to be very good!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

We learn that Adam Harishon was punished for eating the forbidden fruit, which led to the need to work hard to earn a living. Question: Are those in Kollel learning free from this punishment? Or is their learning counted as working?

Last week's Geshmaka Question: Sukkos is called Zman Simchaseinu, the time of our joy. Why is Sukkos specifically such a happy time?

C.F. Answers: Because it's when we learn that our house doesn't protect us: it's only Hashem! When you start to believe and live by that, there is no greater joy than knowing you are always protected by your loving Father!

Ask your friend or Rav/Rabbi for an answer, and it may appear here.
Text your answer in by Sunday to (347) 669 0369 or by email to torahissweeter@gmail.com

Warming Up The Winter!

R' David Trenk zt"l was already older and wasn't feeling well.

When the doctor came to check on him, he said, "Please open your mouth and stick out your tongue fully."

R' Trenk looked at him and said, "Doctor, I NEVER stuck out my tongue at another person in my life. Please don't make me start now!"

What's The Lesson? (R' Trenk was so careful that he never stuck out his tongue at another person, imagine how careful he was NEVER to make fun of someone or embarrass them!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

It says that a person was created in the image of Hashem. What does that mean?

The Chafetz Chaim explained that being created in the image of Hashem means that we can follow in His ways.

If someone says, "I want to be like R' Chaim Kanewsky zt"l," he doesn't mean he wants to LOOK like him! He means he wants to FOLLOW his ways and learn Torah with great hasmadah.

So too, being created in the image of Hashem means that we can FOLLOW in Hashem's ways!

Just like Hashem is always doing kindness, WE should always look for ways to be kind to others!

As we enter the cold winter, let's remember how we can make it warmer: Be warm to others! Give someone a smile, a kind word, a compliment, or help when they need it.

when the world is cold, we are meant to warm it up!