

A Joke With A Lesson

Yitzchak thought he was a banana, so he went to see a therapist.

The therapist helped him understand that he wasn't actually a banana, and after seeing the therapist a few times, Yitzchak said, "I'm cured!"

The therapist wanted to make sure he was really better, so he took him to the zoo. When they got to the monkey cage, Yitzchak ran away as fast as he could.

"Where are you running? I thought you realized you are not a banana!"

Yitzchak, huffing and puffing, yelled back to the therapist, "I know I'm not a banana... but the monkeys never went to therapy...!"

What's The Lesson? Talking about food... on Tisha B'Av we aren't allowed to eat.

Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev said, "On Yom Kippur, who needs to eat? On Tisha B'Av, who wants to eat?" May next Tisha B'Av be a Yom Tov where we can eat in the rebuilt Beis HaMikdash with Mashiach!

Shmuel was on a plane flying to Eretz Yisroel.

Ezra, sitting next to him, kept asking, "Would you like some almonds?" Every few minutes, he would give Shmuel another handful.

After a while, Shmuel laughed and asked, "Why don't you just give me the whole bag at once?"

Ezra said, "I can't. I first lick off the chocolate around the almonds. When I finish the chocolate, the almond is yours...!"

What's The Lesson? Sometimes we forget the main thing, the inside!

We learn and keep the Torah, but we also cannot forget one of the main things inside of the Torah: to love and not hate another Yid.

If hatred is what destroyed the Beis HaMikdash, then love, ahavas Yisroel, is what will rebuild it!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

One Tisha B'Av morning, a man was saying Kinnos when another person came in late and quietly asked, "Where can I find a Kinnos?" Without looking up, the first man replied, "Nu, shh... I'm in the middle. I don't want to lose my place."

The Rebbe in the shul overheard the conversation and gently turned to him and said, "If you would take a moment to help another Yid find a Kinnos and show him a little love, maybe we wouldn't have to sit another year on the floor and say Kinnos in the first place."

What's The Lesson? When someone needs our help, let's open our eyes and not close them behind a kinnos, siddur, or gemara. Be frum and holy, but not when others need you. Then be frum and holy to help them!

This Connects To Tisha B'Av:

We try to be inspired and feel the loss of the Beis HaMikdash, but it can be hard to truly feel it, since we never had the Beis HaMikdash in our lifetime. But we can help rebuild it, so that we won't have to cry over it anymore!

Through loving Yidden, by being there for others and helping them in any way we can. This will help rebuild the Beis HaMikdash!

Our Inner Beis Hamkidash!

Someone once came to R' Aharon Leib Shteinman ztl and asked how a person can help other people grow. R' Shteinman said that if you're trying to help your children, your students, or anyone else, the more you grow yourself, the more the people around you will grow as well.

Reb Shteinman then shared a story. The Dubno Maggid once asked the Vilna Gaon, "How can a person help others grow in Torah and Vistas Shamayim?"

The Vilna Gaon answered: "Imagine that you are a large cup surrounded by many smaller cups. If your cup is only partly full, you have little to give. But if you fill your cup until it overflows, the smaller cups around you will naturally become filled as well."

What's The Lesson? One of the best ways to help others grow is to grow yourself!

This Connects To Tisha B'Av:

There is the physical Beis HaMikdash that was destroyed, which we cry for on Tisha B'Av. But there is also a personal Beis HaMikdash within every Yid, and sometimes we ourselves feel broken and as if we were destroyed, and we cry over who we have become or who we didn't become, and that we didn't grow.

But we must also realize that we can rebuild. Chazal say (Sanhedrin 92a) that when a person fills himself with true Torah understanding, and transforms his mind into a Torah mind, it is as if he built the Beis HaMikdash!

A person who fills himself with true Torah understanding can turn himself into a place of holiness where Hashem's Presence can be felt, just like the Beis HaMikdash. By choosing to grow yourself personally, you are helping the world as well!

This may be part of the comfort of Shabbos Nachamu: that we still have an *inner Beis HaMikdash* and an unbreakable connection with Hashem. We are never completely lost. We're waiting for the rebuilding of the Beis HaMikdash, but it starts by rebuilding our own Inner Beis HaMikdash. The power of Torah learning and connecting to Hashem is as if we rebuilt the Beis HaMikdash!

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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. His Heart Wasn't In It!

Chezyk had a very unusual job. He was a professional wine taster for a large Jewish wine company. He was very talented and could taste exactly what the wine needed to be perfect. He would taste each barrel, rate how good it was, and they would set the prices accordingly.

Then one day, something terrible happened. There was a terrible terrorist attack. A bus exploded, and many Yidden were hurt and killed.

When Chezyk came to work that day, he just couldn't bring himself to taste the wine. His heart wasn't in it.

His boss said, "Okay, then we won't pay you today, and it will come off your weekly paycheck."

Chezyk said, "Why? This should be considered a sick day!"

His boss said, "That's not true. You are choosing not to taste."

Who's right?

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!

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

Chazal say (Yerushalmi, Kiddushin 4:1) that Nechemiah ben Chachalyah was permitted to drink the King of Persia's wine.

Since Nechemiah was the King's servant, his job was to taste the wine before serving it to prove it had not been poisoned.

One day, after Nechemiah heard about the destruction of Yerushalayim, he stood before the king in deep sadness. He simply could not bring himself to drink the king's wine. The king noticed his sadness and asked why he looked so troubled.

Nechemiah was filled with fear, worried that the king might suspect him of poisoning the wine. However, he answered honestly, explaining that he could not help but feel saddened by the terrible state of Yerushalayim.

Nechemiah was so heartbroken that he was unable to drink wine, to the point that he stopped eating and drinking, putting his life in danger!

We see from here that it is possible that a person who is experiencing deep sadness may be unable to bring themselves to drink wine.

So Chezyk should still get paid.

Tisha B'Av Is A Day Of Connecting!

During World War II, Jews were forced on terrible Nazi death marches, where they were forced to walk for days with little food, water, or rest. Thousands collapsed from exhaustion and were shot on the spot.

One of the Nazis noticed a man walking barefoot. It was the Klausenberger Rebbe ztl, who had already lost his wife and his ten children. He was thin, weak, and barely alive.

At the very beginning of the death march, he had taken off his shoes because he knew that the second day of the march would be on Tisha B'Av.

The Nazi realized why he had taken off his shoes and forced him to walk along the rocky side of the road, where every step was on sharp stones and pebbles.

The Rebbe's feet bled with every step. The pain was unbearable, yet he kept walking, while quietly reciting Eicha and the Kinnot to himself.

What's The Lesson? Even in the most difficult times, a person can still serve Hashem. A person should serve Hashem to whatever level he can push himself to reach!

This Connects To Tisha B'Av:

Although Tisha B'Av is the saddest day of the year, it is still called a Yom Tov. It is a day filled with spiritual light.

We cry and remember the amazing beauty we once had: the Beis HaMikdash and even the Giants of Torah who inspired our generations.

We think of leaders such as the Chofetz Chaim, Rav Moshe Feinstein, Rav Chaim Kanievsky, and the many great chasidic rebbe's we have lost. The great beauty we have lost!

We cry because we miss them and because we want to still be part of that greatness.

This is one of the main avodah's of Tisha B'Av: by crying over the past, we remain connected to it and to all the beauty we once had. The more we try to appreciate the beauty we once had, the more we are connected to it!

This is the celebration of Shabbos Nachamu, that we are still connected to the beauty of the past! And by wanting to connect to the past, we have hope for the future!

Because we will realize that we still have beauty even today. Yiddishkeit is amazing. Shabbos is beautiful! And we will then try to connect to the beauty of serving Hashem!! (Based on R' Shimshon Pincus ztl)

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

A Geshmaka Tisha B'Av Question:

The fire that began burning the Beis HaMikdash was lit on the Ninth of Av, which is why we sit and cry on Tisha B'Av. However, the fire continued to burn, and the Beis HaMikdash was fully destroyed the following day.

Question: Why, then, do we cry on the day the fire began rather than on the day the Beis HaMikdash was actually destroyed?

Last week's Geshmaka Question: Chazal say (Yoma 9b) that the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed because of hating others for no reason. Question: Why would someone hate another person for no reason?

R' Avrum Rosenblum Answers: The simple one-word answer is jealousy. It is brought down in Mussar seforim that the main sin of jealousy is a lack of Emunah in Hashem.

Because if you have Emunah, you know that what someone else has Hashem wants him to have, and you have exactly what you are supposed to have.

It's hating for no reason, since it's all from Hashem!

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 torahiswetter@gmail.com