



סוכות

WITH

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BASED ON HIS BOOKS, TAPES & WRITINGS OF TALMIDIM

A Temporary World

Contents:

Part I. The Visitor - 1

Part II. The Guest - 4

Part III. The Exporter - 7

Part I. The Visitor

It's a Hotel World

In his Shaar Cheshbon Hanefesh, the Chovos Halevavos speaks about the necessity for every person to consider what he calls *tzuras omdo b'olam*, the essential character of his existence in the world. It means that among all of the attitudes of the mind that every person must develop, he must also take time to think about this burning question: What does my state of existence in this world look like?

Now when a child is born he knows right away the state of his existence. He's here to stay. If you tell him stories about people who die, he doesn't really believe it, or at least it doesn't apply to him. He thinks he knows *tzuras omdo b'olam*; he's a permanent resident.

Actually, almost everybody retains this juvenile attitude all his life. Of course, he knows all about *misah*, but it's very far from his mind. He has ten thousand years left, at least. That's his recognition

of *tzuras omdo b'olam*; he's here and he's here to stay.

And that's why the Chovos Halevavos reminds us that it's of the utmost importance to "recognize the actual form of our existence here," that we're only visitors. This is a hotel and we are *orchim*; we spend a little time here and then we move on.

A Temporary Dwelling

Now, one of the experiences that Hakodosh Boruch Hu presents to us for the purpose of acquiring this attitude is the *sukkah*. **בְּסֻכּוֹת יִתְּשְׁבוּ – שִׁבְעַת יָמִים** – For seven days go out from your home and live in the *sukkah*. It's a *mitzvah* that if used the way Hakodosh Boruch Hu intended, will have the most far-reaching results in our lives; not only on Sukkos but in Cheshvan and Kislev and all the rest of the year. Sitting in the *sukkah*, if you learn how to do it, affects our entire attitude and our entire success in this world.

Let's study that. First we note that one of the most important features of the *sukkah* is that it's a

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diras arai. By its very nature, in its *halacha* requirements, it's supposed to be a temporary dwelling. Why can't you make a *sukkah* that's higher than a certain height? Because **סִכְּהַ דִּירַת עֲרָאִי בְּעֵינֵן**; it has to be a temporary dwelling and too high a wall around the *sukkah* gives the impression that it's permanent; if it's too high you'll be forced to build very strong walls,

And so we see that a fundamental requirement of a kosher *sukkah* is that it should be a temporary dwelling.

Now it's not merely for convenience, so that we shouldn't have to spend too much money in building permanent *sukkos*. No, it's much more than that. The purpose is to tell us **צֵא מְדִירַת קֶבַע וְשֵׁב בְּדִירַת עֲרָאִי**; for this certain amount of time, for these seven days, Hashem wants you to move out of your permanent residence, and go into a temporary dwelling. And in that little hut, in that flimsy home, you will be encouraged to reflect on the temporary nature of your existence in this world, on your actual *tzuras omdo b'olam*.

Remember Those Days

Of course, we shouldn't forget to keep in mind what Hakodosh Boruch Hu told us *befeirush*, that we are sitting in the *sukkah* **לִמְעַן יִדְעוּ דֹרֹתֵיכֶם כִּי בְּסֻכּוֹת כָּיָדְנוּ** – *in order to remember how we sat in huts for forty years when Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim* (Vayikra 23:43).

That's another reason why the *schach* can't be too high. When the *schach* is too high, **לֹא שֶׁלֶטָּא בָּהּ**, *the eye ordinarily doesn't look up that high* and you'll miss the point. We want the *schach* to be within your normal eyesight so that even without craning your neck you'll see what's overhead and you'll be reminded about that miraculous period in our history. It was miraculous when the entire nation dwelt only in *sukkos*, in little flimsy dwellings. and still we were more secure in the *midbar* than at any other time in our history. And it's only because

Hakodosh Boruch Hu was our *sukkah*. He was protecting us.

So when you go into the *sukkah* and you're thinking, "Is it kosher *schach*? Are the dimensions good? Is it big enough? Is it under a tree?" The ones who know more are thinking about *lavud* and *dofen akumah*, other *dinim*. Very good! It's wonderful if they have all these things in mind, but you have to add on something more. You have to spend some time thinking about the forty years that we lived in the Midbar under the protection of Hashem. How can you neglect such a thing when Hakodosh Boruch Hu says openly, **לְמַעַן** – *it's for this purpose* that I commanded you to live in *sukkos*.

Always Traveling

And yet included in that thought, the *sukkah* reminds us of how temporary was our existence in the *midbar*. Every day they had to be on the alert, maybe they'll hear the blast of the *chatzotzros* summoning them to pull up the stakes of their tents and start moving. And so they never felt settled; they were like visitors, like people who are just passing through.

And it was intended by Hashem to be that way. The forty year journey through the Midbar was meant to teach them that lesson. *vayisu Bnei Yisrael*, we're traveling all the time, never resting for too long in one place – that's a symbol of our existence in this world, we're just passing through.

We see it today too. When the immigrants came to this country, when they arrived in New York, first they lived on the East Side and then Brownsville and then Crown Heights, then they moved some place else. That's Hashem's plan. *Vayisu Bnei Yisrael*, we're always on the move, traveling throughout our history. We went to Bavel. From Bavel we went to Spain and North Africa. Then we went to Europe. Then from Italy and France we went to Germany, from Germany to Russia; and then to America and Australia. And so we're always traveling; *vayisu*.

And what's one of the purposes? It's not the only reason but one of the purposes is so we should always feel we're not permanent residents anywhere because the whole *olam hazeh* is temporary.

Traveling in Greatness

Now it doesn't mean they didn't succeed in Spain. Traveling doesn't mean failure. So many of our *rishonim* were there. Without Spain we wouldn't have the Rambam and the Rashba and the Ritva and the Ran and all the other *gedolei Yisroel*. The *Kuzari* and *Chovos Halevavos* were all from Spain.

It wasn't a failure; just the opposite – they succeeded more because they had in mind that they came from someplace and they're going someplace else; they won't be here forever.

They weren't deceived like American Jews who think *זאת מנוחתנו עדי עד פה אֵשֶׁב וְעַד עַד* – *we'll be here forever and ever*. Like Alabama means in the Indian language, "Here we rest forever." Oh no, it's no Alabama for us. Don't make any mistake about it; we won't rest here forever. The German Jews thought so too. Don't make that same mistake.

Traveling Happily

Now, this understanding of our *tzuras omdo b'olam* will have the most far-reaching results. It affects our entire attitude and our entire success in this world. Even in *gashmiyus*, even in the way we enjoy this world, it will make a tremendous difference. I'll prove it to you. Because don't you enjoy yourself in the temporary *sukkah*? You sing *zemiros* in the *sukkah*, and you can eat good *seudos* in the *sukkah* with your family. You enjoy yourself very much!

In fact, you enjoy it more. It's like an outing. You know, *melamdim* many times go to the country for the summer. Now when you come to the bungalow for two months, you know you have plenty of time and so you're not in a hurry to enjoy it and it becomes boring too after a while. But while you're in the country you notice there are people

who are coming for a two week vacation, some for a one-week vacation.

Now, these one-weekers, they come along with fishing rods. They come along with hiking boots. They come with plans how they're going to do everything during that week; they'll go here and they'll go there. Because they know they're only here for one week, they come with the intention of getting the most they can out of it. And so they go swimming all the time and fishing and hiking and looking and jumping. They're busy all the time because they know time is short and they want to get the most out of this one week.

It's A Fun World

So when you know *Olam Hazeh* is only for a short time, you will enjoy it more. It's not a silly idea I'm telling you. When a man knows – like all of us know – that he's in this world for the next 65 million years, it's boring. The whole world is boring, not interesting when you still have 65 million years ahead of you! But when you know it's a little less than 65 million years then you think, "Maybe I should enjoy it."

Why not? Why shouldn't you enjoy the world? It's a *mitzvah* to look at the world and say *מָה רַבּוֹ מְעַשֵּׂיךָ הָשֵׁם*. We have to thank Hashem for everything. And how can you thank Him if you don't enjoy? If you don't like it, you can't thank Him. So you have to enjoy the sun. You have to enjoy the blue skies. You have to enjoy the fresh air. You have to enjoy the glass of water. There are wonderful things to enjoy, and you'll enjoy it much more because you know you're only here a short time.

You're The Winner

Not only enjoyment. You'll accomplish more too when you know that you're not here forever. I once gave a *mashal* like this. There was once a contest, and the winner of the contest was given the privilege of going into Tiffany's jewelry safe for five seconds and grabbing whatever he could.

So one man wins and the big day comes. He's escorted up to the safe, a big safe that opens with a clock. Everyone is waiting until the bell rings and the door to the safe swings open. So let's say you're the winner and the chairman of the company says to you, "Hurry up, my friend," and he pushes you into the safe.

You're so astonished by what you see inside. On all sides are glittering stones. You don't know where to start. But before you know it, the five seconds are over already and he's pulling you out with your feet. You say, "Wait a second! I didn't take anything yet! Wait!" But he's already pulling you out.

Grab The Diamonds

And that's this world. The *Malach Hamaves* is going to be pulling you out by the feet and you'll be crying, "Already?!" You didn't use your five seconds in this world. But when you know it's only five seconds, you're prepared and so you'll grab all you can as soon as you can.

This world is full of diamonds. On every side there are diamonds, so many things you can enjoy and accomplish in this world, and therefore when a man knows that it's only a very short time that he's here, he's going to enjoy it more than anybody else and he'll also achieve more than anybody who didn't learn this lesson of the *sukkah*. The one who never recognized *tzuras omdo b'olam* and thinks that the world is a permanent residence for him loses out in the end.

Part II. The Guest

The Year-Round Sukkah

Now, once a person gets used to this idea – once he understands that he's only a guest here, that he's just passing through – so his entire attitude changes. A man who knows he's living in an *olam she'eina shelo* (Sanhedrin 100b) lives an entirely different life.

But the *mitzvah* of *sukkah* is not enough. It's very important and a person who is ambitious can gather a great wealth of the mind during the seven days of Yom Tov but this attitude is too important to be relegated to one week of the year. Hakodosh Boruch Hu expects us to take the lessons of the *sukkah* back into the house at the end of the Yom Tov and live with this reminder all year long.

Napkin Etiquette

Now I'm going to enumerate some of the means of reminding ourselves that we are only visitors here. There are more; I'm just going to choose a few at random. They're good for practicing up in the *sukkah* and for all year long.

One is not to waste materials. Let's say you're a visitor in somebody's home. You sit down at his table for Shabbos and there are napkins. You want to take one napkin? All right. Another napkin? You should think about it before you take a second napkin.

Suppose you're taking two napkins, three napkins, four napkins. The *ba'al habayis* begins to look at you. "What kind of business is that? You're only a visitor here. Napkins don't grow on trees."

But we're learning now that even your own napkins you shouldn't waste. Even when you're in your own home you have to know: it's not your own napkins. You're a visitor here, and you shouldn't waste materials. That's something! Even your own napkins aren't yours. You're a guest in this world and you have to behave like a guest.

The Giving Tree

There was once a very great man, in the times of the Gemara. He had a son named Shivchas who died young. So the father said, "I know why my son died young. *לֹא שָׁכַיב שְׁבָחַת בְּרִי אֶלָּא דְּקָץ תְּאַנְתָּא בְּלָא זְמַנָּה*, he chopped down a fig tree before its time." (Bava Kamma 91b).

When a fig tree gets so old that it produces almost no figs anymore then you can use it for

wood. Otherwise you have no business chopping down a fig tree. It's not yours.

But Shivchas needed wood for some purpose and he forgot this lesson; he chopped down the fig tree while it was still producing figs. So Hashem said, "What's going on here? You're chopping down My good fig tree?!" It was Shivchas's fig tree but it *wasn't* his. "You're a visitor in My house," Hashem said, "and you're chopping down My good fig tree? And since you chopped it before the time, therefore I'm going to take you out of the world before your time." And so Shivchas passed away, a young man.

"If you don't recognize your *tzuras omdo ba'olam*, your state of existence in this world," Hashem says, "then you're missing the fundamental understanding of your purpose here and you don't belong." When you have a visitor who doesn't recognize his place in the home so sometimes he's booted out.

A good guest is stingy with Hashem's property. Not because you're stingy. We're talking about something else altogether. You're always reminding yourself that it's not yours anyhow – you're only a guest in Olam Hazeh and a good guest doesn't waste in the home of his host.

Don't Waste Time

There are other things too, other things that a guest in this world is careful with. If you're here only temporarily so you don't waste time. Time doesn't belong to you – it's borrowed time and you can't afford to waste any of it.

Sometimes on *motzaei shabbos* people might go over to their *mechutanim* or the cousins just to shoot the breeze, to sit for hours talking. A waste! But not only a waste of your life but you're showing that you don't recognize your place in this world. Someone who knows he's a guest in this world doesn't shoot the breeze for no reason.

And so we see now how important it is for us to remember that we are only guests here. When people go back and forth to Eretz Yisroel for nothing, back and forth, back and forth, it's a waste.

They want to visit their child. It's a *terutz*. It's the same as a Caribbean cruise only that the *hechsher* is 'it's Eretz Yisroel'. That covers it up. You're wasting time and wasting money.

There are plenty of things to do with your money and plenty of things to do with your time and the more careful you are, the more you remind yourself that this is an *olam she'eino shelcha*.

Watch Your Words

The Rambam tells us another *chiddush* about our status as visitors in this world. In Avos the Rambam says that Hakodosh Boruch Hu gives us only so many words to speak in our lives. You hear this? It's a big *chiddush*. You were invited into this world as a guest and you were given only a certain amount of words to speak. And therefore you're always careful; always on guard that you shouldn't use your words up too quickly.

מִי הָאִישׁ הַחֹפֵץ חַיִּים? You want to stay longer in this world? Talk less. If you use up the amount of words in a short time then you have no right to keep on living.

You hear that *pshat*? You have to spare your words because it's not given to you to waste. Words are money. *Milah b'sela*, each word is worth a dollar; more than a dollar (megillah 18a). Even if you're rich, you can't just take dollars and throw them out of the window. Same thing, you can't take words and use throw them out of your mouth.

Even in *divrei Torah* the Rambam says. If you can say a *halachah* in five words, don't say it in ten words because five words are wasted. לְעוֹלָם יִשְׁנָה אָרַם לְתַלְמִידוֹ דָּרֹךְ קְצָרָה, *a man should teach Torah in the briefest, most short possible manner* Pesachim 3b), the Rambam says it's for the purpose of saving words. Of course it helps also to make it clearer to understand. When you talk a lot, he gets confused. But besides that. The Rambam says because it's a waste of words. We can't afford to waste words. Words are our life.

A guest understands that. A good guest tiptoes around the house. He doesn't open up his big mouth

and let loose. He understands that in front of the host he's as quiet as possible.

Watch Your Tears

Now, the next thing is a big *chiddush* to most people and therefore I want you to understand it. Among the things we have to keep in mind is that we can't waste emotions. Even emotions are given only for a purpose and someone who knows he's passing through understands that emotions are like napkins – they're meant to be used only as needed, only as the Host expects.

When people weep, they have a responsibility. What are you weeping for? If it's **בְּבִיָּה שֶׁל חֲנָם**, if you're weeping for nothing, so Hashem says "You're wasting tears. You're wasting sadness."

He weeps because he didn't get a good *aliyah* in the *beis haknesses*. He weeps because he put money on the wrong horse. He invested in stocks and the stocks lost. He weeps. His whole life he was weeping but so much of it was wasted tears. Hashem says, "Weep only when I tell you to weep."

There are things you can weep for. Weep for the *churban Beis Hamikdash*. *Kumi roni balaylah*, wake up and cry out at night. Yes, why not? There's no harm. Even young people once in a while, *tikun chatzos*. Everybody's asleep. You get up, sit down on the floor. Nobody has to know. You're in your own room. And weep for the *churban Beis Hamikdash*. That's something to weep for. But don't waste emotion.

Happiness With Reason

Also happiness, excitement, is not yours to waste. Some people sit at a café on New Year's night and they make revelry. Wooh ah! *Simchah shel chinam*. Being happy over nothing is a *cheit*. You're utilizing emotions for nothing. You say, "What's wrong?" What's wrong?! It's wrong that you're wasting emotions.

"What are you happy about?" Hashem says, "I invited you into My house as a guest and you're going *meshuga*, rejoicing in nothing."

Yes, happiness is important. Be happy on Yom Tov. Sukkos, *zman simchaseinu*. It's a *mitzvah* then. Be happy Hakodosh Boruch Hu gave you good health. Say "Boruch atah Hashem that I moved my bowels today." Ahh! That's a *simchah*. You're happy because you have two good kidneys. Ay yah yay! Be happy that you have a *pi hatabaas* instead of having a hole in the side, a colostomy. You can dance and sing for that. "Ah, *boruch Hashem*. I'm so full of joy." Nobody's doing it but that's what happiness is for.

If you're grateful to Hashem, you're utilizing your happiness properly. Otherwise Hashem says, "What are you're wasting what I gave you? I gave you emotions for certain things. You can't waste them. If you want to be a good guest in this world, you have to save your emotions.

Excitement In The World

Excitement too. You want to be excited? Be excited about Me only. Like Dovid Hamelech said, *Halleli nafshi es Hashem*. *Halleli* means to be excited. It means, "My soul, you want to be excited? *Es Hashem!* Only about Hashem." Don't be excited about anything else.

Some people get excited about music. They go into music stores and you see inside they're jumping up and down to the tune of the music. What are you so excited about?!

Music is a *meshugas* unless you use the music in *avodas Hashem*. Then yes. And people learn *mussar* from music. Oy yoy yoy yoy yoy! Music from *mussar*. Wonderful. I heard in Slabodka learning *mussar* there were some specialists who used to have special *nigunim* for *mussar*. It was a pleasure to hear it. Music of the *Levi'im* in the *Beis Hamikdash*. Oh yes! It could induce *ruach hakodesh*. It brought *ruach hakodesh* to the listeners when they heard that music. But *stam* you're excited about music? It's so silly. It's a waste of emotions.

The Natural World

Even to be excited about nature. What is nature that you have to be excited? If you look at nature to

see the *yad Hashem*, if you get excited about seeds, that's something. Every seed, it's known today, has millions of bits of wisdom. Get excited about a seed. Ever eat an apple and as you're eating the seeds fall into your beard, what's the purpose? You'll take a walk later, and you'll be thinking some *divrei Torah* and you'll stroke your beard, the seeds will fall out and remind you to get excited about the seeds.

Yes. But *stam* to be excited about nature like the *meshugaim* and atheists are excited? It's a waste of energy. Hakadosh Baruch Hu didn't give you excitement to be wasted on nothing at all. And it's serious business; you have to know that *asid listen hadin* because it means you think you're the boss here. You're the host and you'll decide what yes, what no.

And so there's so much to practice up with as we pass through this world as guests. And the more a person uses these opportunities to remind himself of his *tzuras omdo b'olam*, that he's here as a visitor. He's always careful with his time and money and words and emotions; and he's enjoying the world the Host expects him to enjoy, and accomplishing in this world the way the Host expects him to accomplish.

Part III. The Exporter

The New King

And now we're coming to the most important phase of tonight's words. Everything we said is a *hakdamah* to what we're going to learn now. The Chovos Halevavos gives a very important *mashal*. He tells us about a man who was traveling on a ship, and the ship was shipwrecked. He fell into the water and the waves carried him up on the shore of a foreign country. He was lying on the shore naked now, he had lost everything in the water.

As he lay there on the shore of that new country he saw people approaching him, a whole committee of people. And when they reached him they said, "Welcome our king!" and they dressed him in royal

garments and placed a golden crown on his head. And then they took him to the palace and sat him on a throne. He was a king.

Now this man didn't ask too many questions, but he was enjoying himself. All the trappings of royalty, the good times. But something was gnawing at him. He wanted to find out what's this all about. And so he was biding his time, looking around among the courtiers in the palace, until finally, he saw one man who looked like someone whom he could trust.

So he made himself close to him; he became friendly with him and one day he called him in and said, "Tell me, what's this all about? What's the whole story here?"

The Old Kings

So the man said, "I'll tell you. Every year it happens that there are shipwrecks around here because there are sharp rocks underneath the water near our island. And every year we take the first man who washes up on our shore and we make him king. We don't tell him, but it's only for one year. And during the year we treat him like a king; we feed him like a king and everything else.

"At the end of the year, we take all his clothes off of him – just like he came to us – and we put him into a wooden box, a boat, and we shove him out to sea. Goodbye! He flows out to the ocean."

Now, this man, this king, said to himself, "All the fools who washed up and thought they were going to be kings forever, that this is their Alabama, they were all in error. They didn't ask any questions, 'What's doing here on this island? Am I really a king here? Nobody asked.

So what did they do? If they had any property outside of the island in other countries, they sent messengers to bring their property to the island. Whatever property they could import, they imported. All their jewelry and cash they brought to the island. And whatever land or homes they had back home, they sold it all and converted it into

money to bring to the island. And they brought their wives and their children to the island too.

And at the end of the year when they were shoved out in a boat all by themselves, they had to leave everything over. Their wives they left over and their children and their money; everything was left on the island and they went out all alone in a little boat into the ocean.

The King of Export

So this man said, "I can't do that. I won't be so foolish." And so he started exporting.

Now listen to this word. Exporting. He started exporting from the island. As much as he could he was sneaking merchandise out of the island. He sold as much as he could of the jewelry they gave him. He made it into cash, and he sent it out stealthily to other places, other countries. The whole year that's all he focused on.

Finally the end of the year came. The island nobles came to him and in one fell swoop they took off his royal clothing, put him into a box and pushed him out in the boat.

But he went with confidence. He'll paddle. He'll paddle his way someplace, and he'll hail a passing ship, and he'll tell them, "Take me to this and this place. I'll give you a big reward."

And that's what happened. The man who understood that he wasn't really a king, that it was only a *diras arai* that island, he went to his big reward that he had piled up in the place that really mattered.

Munbaz Is Attacked

So now we understand the *mashal* of the *Chovos Halevavos* about this world. That's this world. A child is born and he thinks he's a king. It's his world and there's nothing to talk about. But it's not so. We're only visiting; one year or seventy years, whatever it is, it's only a visit.

And that's why it's so necessary to obey the *Chovos Halevavos* and to get busy exporting things

out of this world like the visitor to the island. Instead of being the fool who's importing fancy carpets and expensive toys and new cars and big bank accounts into this world, we have to get busy exporting from this world all we can.

We have to do what Munbaz did. You know there was once a *ger* named Munbaz. Munbaz was a king of Chadayav, a gentile country, and he became a *ger*. And so he began to spend money on *tzedakah*; he gave *tzedakah* to the Jewish people, poor Jews.

חֲבֵרָיו עָלָיו אָחִיו וּבֵית אָבִיו – all his brothers and his father's family came together to protest. What are you doing? Your fathers were busy saving money in the royal treasury and now you're depleting the royal treasury. You're spending it all. That's the claim they had against him. You're giving away the money to *tzedakah*.

The Heavenly Account

So he said אֲבוֹתַי גָּנוּזוּ לְמַטָּה, my forefathers saved money down below, וְאֲנִי גָנוּזְתִי לְמַעְלָה, I'm exporting money to a different place. I'm sending money to the bank above (Bava Basra 11a). This world is a place where we have to export as much as possible and deposit in the bank above.

It's like being inside a *yeshivah*. You're not in the *yeshivah* forever and therefore the purpose of being inside of the *yeshivah* is not merely to be inside. It's to take something out of the *yeshivah* with you so that when you leave you'll be a different person.

Of course you have to export the Torah that's in the *seforim*, not the *seforim* themselves. I once had in my old *mesivta* forty years ago a half retarded young man. So he probably heard somebody say you should take out from the *yeshivah* all you can. One day somebody called me from the East Side and he tells me that this fellow is selling our *seforim*. He's on the street with a little table and he's selling the *yeshivah's seforim*.

He got the wrong idea. He didn't take anything out of the *seforim* – he exported the *seforim* themselves. But we have to get busy exporting the real merchandise. We have to get into our heads that the *sukkah* is telling us, "Become an exporter in this temporary world!"

Goods To Export

You should export *tefillah* from this world. *Tefillah* is a very big accomplishment. The more *tefillos* we send to Hakodosh Boruch Hu and the better your *tefillos* are, the more you accomplish in your exporting business. That's a very big achievement when people spend their lives accomplishing in *tefillah*.

Now, I can't resist reminding you about one of the most important of goods you have to export – it's the necessity to export thank-yous. As many thank-yous as we can, we have to export out of this world and send it to Hashem.

אוֹרֵךְ טוֹב מְדוּ אֹמֵר, *What does a good guest say?* A good guest says כָּל מַה שֶּׁטָּוַרַח בְּעַל הַבַּיִת לֹא טָרַח אֵלָּא בְּשִׁבְלִי – *everything that the host prepared, he prepared for me* (Brachos 58a). So we see a function of the good guest is to generate gratitude to his host. And so make up your mind, you're going to be a good guest.

Thank Your In-Laws

Let's say, you're going to be in your father-in-law's *sukkah* now; so you go with the idea of being grateful. You're going to be grateful to him because he gave you a wife. And now he's giving you a place to eat on Yom Tov and your mother-in-law is bringing into the *sukkah* all types of good food. So make sure to have that in mind – it doesn't hurt to say it too. You should have that in mind. While you're in the *sukkah* you're constantly saying thank you to your host.

And that's a symbol of the gratitude we have to feel to the real Host. We're grateful to the great Host who took us into this world and we have to send Him our thanks constantly for everything.

That's one of the achievements in Olam Hazeh, to export from this world our gratitude.

Every day you should say *brachos* and you should be grateful to Hashem because that's your achievement in this world, to export *brachos*. The more gratitude you feel, the more times you say thank you to Hashem while you're still in this world, that's going to be your deposit in that bank that belongs to you forever and ever.

You know what you're sending to the bank of the next world? Ahavas Hashem. Saying thank You is the best way to export *ahavas Hashem* from this world. Whatever you get in this world should be translated in terms of love.

If Hashem gives you food, love Hashem for your food. Love Him for breakfast. You ever thought about that, to love Hashem because of breakfast? I'm very serious. It's the best merchandise. Whatever He gives you in this world, you should export *ahavas Hashem*, as much *ahavas Hashem* as you can generate.

In Summation

Now don't underestimate it. Don't think it's a small thing. It's our major achievement in this world. And now to sum up what we spoke about tonight. This world is a *sukkah*. It's a temporary dwelling, and we're passing through for a purpose – to be exporters. We're expected to be busy exporting out of the *sukkah* of this world all the good things that we can accomplish.

But because Olam Hazeh gives us the appearance of being permanent – it's always fooling us – so we need to find ways of reminding ourselves that we're only here for a short time; constantly we have to remember that we're only visitors here. That's why as much as possible we practice up acting like guests by not wasting our money and our time and our words and emotions.

And yet, even though this attitude of Olam Hazeh being a *diras arai* is something we can practice up year-round, Sukkos is the best time to learn this lesson. That's what it's made for. When

you sit in the temporary dwelling for seven days, it's a very good opportunity to utilize this great lesson and think, "This whole world is one big *diras arai*. And therefore when I get back into my house, I'm going to remember that even my brick home is a *diras arai* and I'll get busy exporting to Olam Habo as much Torah, *mitzvos*, *yiras shamayim*, *chesed* and *tzedakah* as possible.

"And not only from my house. Once I learn the lesson of the *sukkah*, then wherever I go in this temporary world I'm going to be busy exporting *avodas Hashem*. And when it finally comes time to leave this Sukkah World after 120 years, I'll be going to the real world where everything I exported will be waiting for me.

Have A Wonderful Shabbos

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

Utilizing the Sukkah

This Yom Tov, whenever I enter the Sukkah I will remember that it commemorates the temporary huts our forefathers lived in, and that this is Hashem's Plan for us, to remind us that we're visitors here. As a temporary guest, I will be careful not to waste the resources of this world. This will remind me to get busy exporting Torah and Mitzvos from this world.

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If a husband and a wife attempt to live in peace and they succeed, can their happiness in this world be deducted from their happiness in the next world? Also can their shalom bayis ever be taken away from them as a punishment for sin.



Those are two separate questions. So we'll answer one at a time. When people are happy as a result of doing mitzvos, they will never lose any reward in Olam Habo because of that happiness. Although other kinds of happiness like wealth or fame or even long life may be deducted from your reward in the World to Come – a person has to be afraid he's being paid off in this world – but if you're happy as a result of mitzvos, if you're happy because you practice living peacefully with people and people like you, or husband and wife like each other, that will never be deducted as part of your payment. And so if you'll sit in the *sukkah* and rejoice with your family on *Sukkos*, that will never be deducted from your *schar* in Olam Habo. That's a *klal gadol* – the *simcha* of a *mitzvah* is never considered as payment in this world.

The second question: Will the happiness achieved in doing a *mitzvah* ever be imperiled because of somebody's misbehavior? And the answer is that anything is imperiled by one's misbehavior. Even your *tefillin* are imperiled. You see that we say *מפני חטאינו גלינו מארצנו* – because of our sins we were exiled from our land and we lost the *Beis Hamikdash* and *korbanos*. We lost most of the *Seder Kodshim*! And most of the *Seder Taharos* we lost. A big *shas* we lost because *מפני חטאינו*. So you see by doing sins, people can be deprived even of mitzvos. A *mitzvah* is a benefit – it's a privilege to be able to do mitzvos. And sometimes, by misdeeds, a person loses that privilege. And that's the very worst form of punishment there could be – there's no punishment worse than losing the opportunity to do mitzvos.

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