

Emor / אֶמֹר

Seeing Bread

By: Aharon Spetner

Illustrations by: M. Weinreb

Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

The boys class chatted happily as they walked back to cheder from their Lag BaOmer field trip. Rebbe Cohen had taken them to a cave that had recently been discovered nearby, and aside from the amazing rock formations and other *niflaos haborei* that they saw, it also brought to life how it must have been for Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son Rabbi Elazar to live in a cave for 13 years!

Suddenly, as they passed Antonio's Italian Bakery, Rebbe Cohen stopped and stared through the window. The boys looked curiously as their Rebbe stood there, looking at the large assortment of breads on display in the window.

"Rebbe," said Yoni. "Why are we stopping here? We already ate lunch, and besides this isn't even a kosher bakery."

"Look through the window," Rebbe Cohen replied. "Tell me what you see."

"I see the baker putting bread on the shelves," Shimmy said, confused.

"Look closer," Rebbe Cohen said. "Do you see anything that reminds you of the Mishkan or the Beis Hamikdash?"

The boys all crowded around the window. What was their Rebbe referring to? Was there an animal being shected, or a mizbeiach somewhere?



For sponsorship opportunities
please call: 732.844.3670

“Boys,” Rebbe Cohen continued, “do you know what was in the Heichal, just a few feet from the Kodosh Hakodashim?”

“Well there was the Menorah,” offered Moishy, as he took notice of the stack of scrumptious-looking panini bread.

“And the Mizbeiach Haketores!” chimed in Yoni, his mouth starting to water at the basket of Muffuletta rolls.

“Both good answers,” said Rebbe Cohen. “What else?”

“Oh, the Shulchan!” said Shimmy. “Is that it? Because of the Lechem Hapanim?”

“Now, we’re getting somewhere,” smiled Rebbe Cohen. “Have you ever given thought as to why, in the Beis Hamikdash, there were twelve loaves of bread? This is Hashem’s House, the holiest place in the world, not a bakery. Why on earth would Hakadosh Boruch Hu tell us to have a table stacked with bread right there?”

The boys thought about this for a minute. The question had never occurred to them before. And Rebbe Cohen still hadn’t explained what this had to do with Antonio’s bakery and his 40 different types of Italian bread.

“Have you ever thought about where bread comes from?” asked Rebbe Cohen? “Or how amazing it is that grinding up wheat kernels and mixing them with water and yeast creates a squishy dough that can be baked into all sorts of scrumptious loaves that feed all of mankind?”

“Hashem created many miracles that make the amazing gift of bread - and that is something that

we are obligated to spend time thinking about. In fact, it is so important, that right next to the Menorah and the Mizbeiach Hazahav, we are commanded to have the Shulchan which constantly had bread on it to remind us to never stop thinking about how grateful we must be to Hashem for giving us healthy and delicious food to eat.

Just then, the door to the bakery opened and the baker poked his head out.

“Hello my dear Rabbi!” he called in a heavy Italian accent. “I see today you brought-a your whole-a family! Maybe today you will finally buy some of my famous focaccia or maybe some michtetta - I will give-a you a good-a deal!”

“Hello, Antonio,” Rebbe Cohen said warmly. “But you know I can only eat kosher bread. But it still looks delicious as always and it is a pleasure to just look at it.”

Antonio waved at the boys and their Rebbe and turned back into the store as Rebbe Cohen continued:

“Every day on my way to cheder I pass by this bakery. And even though we obviously can’t eat the bread that they sell here, I always take several minutes to look at the gorgeous loaves of bread that are an absolute *neis* from Hashem.

“So every day, whether you are eating the sandwich your mother packed you for lunch or eating the challah at the Shabbos table, we must always remember to think about how much we have to be thankful to Him every day for giving us the food that keeps us alive and able to serve Him.”

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

**When we look at the yummy challos prepared for Shabbos,
we recognize the wonderful chessed of Hashem.**



To listen on the phone, Dial:

USA: 718-289-0899 | UK: 0333-015-0752 | Israel: 079-704-0089 | Canada: 438-771-0452