

Shavuos / שבועות

A Life of Torah Fun

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Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

Shavuos morning, after Shacharis

“How did your learning go?” Totty asked the boys as they headed home from shul. “Were you able to stay up all night okay?”

“It was amazing,” said Yanky. “I was able to spend the night on the new Gemara we just learned that I was having trouble fully chapping. Boruch Hashem, by the end of the night, I finally understood it clearly!”

“It got a little hard towards the end,” admitted Hershy. “But just then Rabbi Goldman from down the street asked if I wanted to learn with him. He is so energetic that it really woke me up and gave me the koach that I needed to make it through the night!”

“Wow, I’m so glad to hear that,” said Totty as they arrived at their house. “Well, let’s have a quick kiddush and then take a nap before the seudah.”



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A few hours later

"Kinderlach!" called Totty. "We're starting the seudah in ten minutes!"

Yanky and Hershy stretched and yawned as they woke up from their nap and washed *negel vasser*.

"Ah I really needed that nap," said Yanky. "Shavuos sure is a busy Yom Tov."

"It's my favorite," beamed Hershy. "What an amazing gift the Torah is."

The boys quickly got dressed and headed to the dining room where their parents and sisters were already waiting for them.

"Ah, here you are!" Totty said. "Let's make kiddush!"

But as Totty lifted the becher to begin kiddush, he suddenly stopped.

"Hershy, where are you going?"

Everyone at the table looked to see Hershy, who had just grabbed his Gemara, heading out the front door.

"I'm going back to shul to learn," explained Hershy. "I had such an amazing time learning last night, I want to spend the entire Yom Tov learning!"

"But what about the Yom Tov seudah?" asked Totty incredulously.

"Well I heard kiddush and had *mezonos* after davening," explained Hershy. "It's Chag Matan Torah - I want to spend the day the way we're supposed to spend it - immersed in the sweet Torah that Hashem gave us!"

"Hershy, wait." Totty said, putting the kiddush cup back on its saucer. "Do you know that there is a *machlokes* in the Gemara about whether Yom Tov should be spent entirely in the Beis Midrash - or only half of the day learning, and spending the rest of the time enjoying the seudah and other *gashmiyusdike* aspects of the day."

"Okay, but I want to be *machmir* and go like the first *shitah*," Hershy said.

"Hold on a second. Then the Gemara says that even according to Rabbi Eliezer, who says the entire Yom Tov should be spent in the Beis Midrash, on Shavuos **even he agrees** that we also need *Gashmiyus*. Because it's Chag Matan Torah!"

"I don't understand," said Hershy, still standing by the door. "If anything, Chag Matan Torah should be the day that we spend entirely in the Beis Midrash."

"Ah," Totty said warmly. "But think for a second to whom Hashem gave the Torah. He didn't give it to the *Malochim* - he gave it to us. And we live in this world! The Torah is full of instructions of how to live a life in this material world. Or, as Rav Avigdor Miller would say, 'The Torah was given to us to teach us **how to have fun** in This World!' A life according to the Torah is **fun**, even when we are eating and drinking! The true way to celebrate the Torah is not to **just** learn it - it's super important, and we'll all go to shul to learn again after the seudah. But we also need to live the Torah on Shavuos!"

Hershy thought this over, still holding his Gemara for a second, before putting it back on the shelf.

"I didn't realize that," he said, joining the family at the table. "I was actually going to give up Mommy's delicious cheese blintzes *l'kovod* Yom Tov - but now that I know that it's a *mitzvah* to enjoy them, I'm going to enjoy them *l'kovod* Yom Tov!"

"Gevaldig!" Totty said with a huge smile. Turning to everyone at the table, he added: "*Limud Torah* is the most important thing in this world. But we must not forget that the Torah is meant to be used. And when we enjoy Shabbos and Yom Tov, as well as the meals we eat all year long that give us the energy to learn and do *Mitzvos*, that is also *Avodas Hashem*!"

Have A Wonderful Yom Tov!

Takeaway:

A Torah life is fun! Hashem loves us and wishes to make us happy, that's one of the lessons of Shavuos; that the Torah makes us happy in This World.



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