

תשפ"ד · Bnos 5784

Parshas

Metzora- Shabbos Hagadol

אחינו כל בית ישראל הנתונים בצרה ובשביה העומדים בין בים ובין ביבשה המקום ירחם עליהם ויציאם מצרה לרוחה ומאפלה לאורה ומשעבוד לגאלה השתא בעגלא ובזמן קריב ונאמר אמן:



Story

Leil Shimurim - A NIGHT OF PROTECTION

For the Jews of Schulzberg, a small town in northern Germany, Nisan was normally a happy month. This year, however, things were different. The late Prince Augustine, the local Count, had been succeeded by Wilhelm, his young and inexperienced son. Augustine had been a kind, just ruler, and during his reign the Jews had been left in peace. But now they trembled. The new Prince's advisor was Johann, notorious for his cruelty and hatred of the Jews. Johann owed large sums of money to many Jews in the town, and he would be only too eager to persuade Wilhelm to persecute the helpless Jews.

On Shabbos HaGadol, the Shabbos before Pesach, the town's beloved rabbi, Reb Shmuel, urged the people to have faith in Hashem and not to let this worry spoil their Yom Tov celebrations. Hashem had saved the Jews on Pesach before. Surely, He would not desert them now.

Once Yom Tov began, everyone forgot his worries. After shul on the first Seder night, nine-yearold Ezra came home with his father, Reb Yehuda, and their guests for the Seder. 'This was Ezra's favorite night of the year, and he was determined to remain awake until the very end. As the Seder proceeded and the Haggadah was read, fear and tension left them. "Tonight we are free men," they thought. "Even the wicked Pharaoh had failed to destroy us. Why should anyone else succeed?"

At last it was time for Ezra to open the door for Eliyohu HaNovi. He felt sure that Eliyohu would be waiting there outside. Even if he couldn't stay, he would slip in quietly and take a sip of the wine just to show that he had not forgotten the Jewish people. But this year Reb Yehuda was hesitant.

"It's best not to open the front door, Ezra. These are dangerous times, and who knows what danger lurks in the Street.

Ezra looked so downhearted that all the guests felt sorry for him. "Please, father," he pleaded. "Our rebbe said this is a Leil Shimurim a special night of protection by Hashem. No harm will come. Do let me open the door."

Reb Yehuda saw how much this meant to Ezra. He nodded, and Ezra rushed to the front door. On opening it, he quickly looked up and down the street, hoping that Eliyohu HaNovi would suddenly appear.

A moment later he saw someone, but it wasn't Eliyohu. Someone was carefully creeping out from behind the rabbi's house nearby. He was dressed well, but there was no horse or carriage waiting for him. For a moment he turned around and Ezra shuddered when he saw his face - hard and cruel with an evil smile on his lips. Ezra knew this stranger meant harm, but decided not to tell his father until after the Seder.

Hardly was Ezra back in his place when Reb Yehuda slipped quietly from the table and called him to the next room. "I can see from your face that something happened at that door. Tell me, why do you look so worried?"

Quickly, Ezra told of what he had seen. His father trembled. "Your description fits only one man. He has planted trouble in the rabbi's house, I am sure. What can we do?"

They stood quietly for a moment listening to the voices reciting the Haggadah in the other room. Then suddenly, from the distance, wild cries were heard. A crowd of shouting people was marching on the Jewish quarter. Ezra's father turned white. I am sure of it - they will accuse us of killing a non-Jewish child and using his blood for matzos." He moaned, "Once that mob is aroused they will show no mercy. There is one last chance, Ezra. Hurry!"

He rushed into the room where everyone was sitting and said, "Now is a time of danger. Do as I say. Reb Asher - you lead the Seder. No one may know that Ezra and I have left the house." Taking hold of Ezra's arm, he rushed out before his startled guests could even answer.

They ran to the rabbi's house. The crowd was coming, crying loudly "revenge." "Stand guard," whispered Ezra's father, "and warn me if anyone is coming."

He disappeared around the back of the house and searched the yard by the full moon. A few moments later he returned, carrying something in his arms. "Follow me," he said, and they disappeared into the night.

Some time later they returned home. "Thank goodness you're back safe and sound," cried Mother on seeing them.

"Soldiers have been here searching our house. A non-Jewish child is missing and all the Jews are suspected. Sh... Sh... listen, there's an announcement."

"All Jews, come to the rabbi's house," called a voice from outside. Once everyone was there, someone stood up and, screaming in a fit of rage, accused them of cruelly killing an innocent child for the Passover holiday. Ezra stared. That was the face! He glanced at his father but said nothing. The man continued to rebuke and threaten the frightened Jews. The excited crowd was waiting for the order to attack the Jews.

"Your rabbi led you in committing this terrible deed. I saw it with my own eyes," he cried. "But I waited till now to show everyone what a wicked people you are." Rubbing his hands in glee, he continued, "Now you shall suffer for it."

The crowd began shouting, "Show us the child, Johann, and we will serve you for life."

The rabbi and his family stood to one side, terrified, as Johann led the mob to the back of the house. Ezra realized that the mysterious visitor he had seen earlier that night was the wicked Johann himself. He followed the crowd to the small yard at the back of the rabbi's house.

Tensely, everyone watched as Johann marched forward confidently, and pulled back some bushes. "Here is the body of the missing Peter," he called out triumphantly - and then he suddenly stopped and stood as if rooted to the spot. Falling backwards, he murmured in a hollow voice, "It's not here." His face turned white, and all his toughness was gone.

There was a moment's silence as he faced the angry crowd, and then the crowd of non-Jews turned on him furiously.

"Show us the child. How did you know it was here?" someone shouted. "It was you who said that a child was killed. You said you saw the Jews kill him." A voice cried out, "Let's go to Johann's house. May he did it."

The Jews were forgotten as everyone stampeded towards Johann's house, dragging him along. "I'm innocent," he screamed. "I've not touched the child!"

As the sound of their footsteps died away, the rabbi turned to all those present and said, "The danger is not yet over. Return home and pray that Hashem should continue to protect us on this 'Night of Protection.'" It was some time before everyone realized that for the moment, at least, they were safe. So much had happened in the last half-hour.

Once Ezra and his family were back at the Seder table his father made everyone promise never to reveal that he and Ezra had left the house earlier that night. “Should the non-Jews find out we are lost,” he warned.

The next morning, the Jews were ordered to assemble in the main square at noon. Nervously, they waited as a carriage drew up, and out stepped Prince Wilhelm himself.

“You were wrongly accused last night. The guilty man has received his deserved punishment.” He went on to explain how the missing child’s body had been found in Johann’s house. Realizing that his wicked deed had been discovered, he confessed everything, begging for mercy. He said that the G-d of the Jews had somehow played magic on him. Prince Wilhelm said, “My loyal Jewish subjects, you were falsely accused, and I apologize. As your ruler, I promise to see to it that this will never happen again.” He handed the rabbi a signed charter granting all Jews peace and freedom during his rule.

The Jews danced for joy, and that day was declared as a double Yom Tov. Those who had been present at Ezra’s house now understood what had happened and kept their promise to remain silent. They all realized that it was Ezra’s pleas to open the door for Eliyohu HaNovi that had helped save them.

Everyone agreed when Ezra’s father said, “My child was quite right. Seder night is indeed a ‘Night of Protection’!”

(Reprinted from Olomeinu)

Parsha Quiz

**See how much
you know!**

1. Who must examine the metzora before he becomes tahor?
2. Where must this examination take place?
3. After the examination of the metzora by the Kohen, what was the first thing the Kohen commanded to be brought before him?
4. What four things were needed by the Kohen to purify the metzora from his tumah, and why?
5. What does the Kohen do to the metzora after he sends the bird away?
6. What does the metzora do after this?
7. What happens on the seventh day of his return?
8. What happens on the eighth day of his return?
9. Where do the laws of negaim of houses apply?
10. In which way were the laws of negaim of houses “good” news for the Jewish People?
11. What are the conditions required for a plague-stricken house to become tamei?
12. What must a Jew do when he sees negaim in his house?
13. What is the first thing the Kohen commands to be done, and why?
14. Once the Kohen inspects the house and finds signs of tumah, what happens to the house?
15. What happens on the seventh day?
16. What happens on the fourteenth day if the signs of tumah became weaker or disappear?
17. What happens on the fourteenth day if the signs of tumah remained the same or spread?
18. What happens on the twenty-first day if the signs of tumah returned?
19. What happens on the twenty-first day if the signs of tumah do not reappear?

Recipe

Mini Fruit Pops

FOR THE LEMON/LIME POPS:

1. Squeeze some fresh lemon and/or lime juice. Don't strain or discard the pulp that comes out with the juice! It makes the pop fun and interesting!
Rather, remove any eventual pits with a fork or spoon.
2. In a large measuring cup, add some simple syrup to the fresh lemon/lime juice but go slow. Taste as you go along until you get to a place where it's puckery enough but still a bit sweet. There are no rules, it's different for everyone.
3. Once you are pleased with the flavor, pour into the molds and thread in a popsicle stick. A nice addition is to add some finely chopped mint leaves and make it into a limonana pop! Freeze overnight or until completely frozen. Remove from molds and place in a container, divided by a sheet of plastic wrap. Refreeze until ready to serve.

Instructions for each flavor pop:

First start with making the syrup needed for all 3.

1. Simply combine equal amounts of sugar and water in a pot, bring to a simmer, and mix with a fork or slotted spoon until no granules are visible. I usually do 1 cup of sugar and 1 cup of water. Once the liquid goes from "granuley" back to clear liquid (like water) you can take it off the heat and let cool.
You can transfer it to a clear condiment bottle.
Once it's in a bottle it's really easy to use. Start slow because it's really sweet! It's better to add slowly and have control.

FOR THE STRAWBERRY POPS:

1. In a food processor fitted with the knife blade, puree a bag of frozen strawberries until smooth. If you had time to thaw the strawberries you won't need to add anything, but if they are still frozen, add some water to help it move along.
2. Once pureed, taste. You might want to add some simple syrup but I find that generally strawberries are so sweet already. I did add a splash of lime juice for some depth.
3. Once you are pleased with the flavor of your sorbet, spoon it into the molds and thread thru a popsicle stick. Freeze overnight or until completely frozen. Remove from molds and place in a container, divided by a sheet of plastic wrap. Refreeze until ready to serve.

FOR THE MANGO POPS:

1. Try to pick well ripened mangoes. Firm ones won't do.
2. In a food processor fitted with the knife blade, puree fresh cubed mango until smooth. If you want, you can use frozen mango too.
3. Resist the urge to add any liquid yet. If you do, you might want to add simple syrup and not water.
4. Once pureed, give a taste. You might want to add some simple syrup but I find that generally mangoes are so sweet already. I did add a splash of lime juice for some depth. Do that, and taste again.
5. Once you are pleased with the flavor and consistency (you want it smooth, like a very soft sorbet—let the food processor run a LONG time and add water if it needs it), spoon it into the molds and thread in a popsicle stick. Freeze overnight or until completely frozen. Remove from molds and place in a container, divided by a sheet of plastic wrap. Refreeze until ready to serve.

Middah of the Week

Pesach

We want to hear from you!!

Questions, comments, or suggestions?
Email us at bnos@agudah.org.
