

PARSHAS METZORA

Rav Mordechai Kalatsky April 19, 2024| 11th Nisan, 5784

DANIEL'S MATZAH

"In the midst of my preparations for our family Seder last Pesach, my precocious four-year-old grandson, Daniel, informed me that he would be 'very quiet when eating matzah at the Seder.' When I did not respond enthusiastically to this profound statement, he pursued the matter and said, 'Don't you want to know why I will be very quiet when I eat matzah?' I, being then quite occupied with such weighty matters as choosing the appropriate wines for the Seder, grunted offhandedly, 'Tell me why, Daniel.' With a smile of wisdom that only children who are yet unaware of their limitations can muster, he said to me, 'Because I want to hear the matzah.' That's nice,' I said, with my typical grandfatherly diffidence. I immediately thought that 'hearing' the matzah meant the snap, crackly, and pop sounds that only dry, crisp, well-baked Pesach matzah could produce while being chewed in one's mouth. Maybe that is what Daniel meant as well. But in the time that has passed since that Pesach, I have rethought the matter.

"Matzah is accustomed to hearing what we have to say to it. Most of the ritual service of the Pesach Haggadah is recited with the matzah uncovered, serving as the passive, inanimate listener to our tale of bondage and freedom, cruelty and redemption, chaos and purpose. The matzah hears our words and listens to our tale. But, I now thought, how meaningful it would be if, in the words of Daniel, we would 'hear the matzah.' I think that such a conversation would go something like this:

" 'This is Seder number 3336 (the Exodus took place in the year 2448 from Creation) for me. I began in Egypt, traveled through the Sinai Desert, and took root in the Land of Israel. I was at the Temple in Jerusalem, the palace of David, the herdsman's hut on the Golan, and the merchant's home in ancient Jaffa. I was present at the hanging gardens of Babylon, the Acropolis of Athens, and the Forum in Rome. I have been in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, the Alps of Switzerland, the plains of Catalonia, the vineyards of Provence and Champagne, and I witnessed the splendor of ancient Byzantium. I have seen Warsaw, Vilna, Kiev, Cracow, Moscow, Berlin, Paris, Kobe, Shanghai, Cochin, and Mumbai. I have been at Seder tables spread with white linen, laden with the finest china and most ornate silver serving pieces. I have also been in hidden, dark cellars in Seville and Barcelona, expelled from London and Oxford, and unaccountably and unjustly accused of blood libels in my preparation. I was also in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, under siege in modern Jerusalem and Safed, in labor camps in Siberia, and I am still in hiding in Damascus and Teheran. I have been around and I have learned a thing or two.

" 'I have observed the passing of civilizations and empires. I have witnessed profound changes in the world order and in society's beliefs. Every empire was convinced that it was invincible and immortal. Every philosophy advanced itself as being the sole panacea for the world's ills. Aristotle and Augustine, Aquinas and Locke, Marx and Nietzsche, Kierkegaard and Russell, all postulated and proposed. Monarchy and feudalism, fascism and communism, all rose to structure society and improve human life. Reason and renaissance, humanism and socialism, imperialism and nationalism, fundamentalism and secularism, religious oppression and hedonism, all have had their day. I, as a lowly matzah, couldn't comment too loudly about these goings-on. But, I have seen them all pass. Yet the struggle for personal freedom, for meaning and commitment in life, for peace and mutual understanding, for the sanctity of the home and family is yet to be won. That is why I'm so delighted to have this little chat with you. I'm always thrilled to have someone who will listen to me.

" 'For a while, people, even my people, thought that I wouldn't be around much longer. But that was not true. I am now in Scarsdale and Beverly Hills, Brooklyn and Minneapolis, Bogota and Sydney, Prague and even St. Petersburg (nee Leningrad). I am back home in Jerusalem and Hebron, Tiberias and Tel Aviv. In fact, I am present wherever people care, hope and are interested and loyal regarding their heritage, treasure old values, close family, and have proscribed the violence of hatred and the lure of temporary pleasures and hedonism, and instead have chosen the path of tradition and faith. In short, for anyone who will listen to me, I am still there.' "Please pass the matzah, Daniel. I will be very quiet while I am eating it. I also want to hear the matzah."



Friday April 19th

Shachris 7 AM Mincha 6:25PM Candle lighting 6:38PM -6:50PM Reg Candle Lighting 7:46 PM

Shabbos morning Shabbos Hagadol Shachris 8:45 AM Shabbos Hagadol Derasha 6:45 PM Mincha 7:35 PM Maariy/ Shabbos ends 8:56 PM

Sunday April 21st

Shachris 8:30 AM Mincha/Maariv 7:55 PM Bedikas Chametz 8:58 PM

Monday April 22nd

Shachris 7 AM
Siyum Bechoros Following Davening

Last Time to Eat Chametz 10:29 AM Burn Chametz By 11:50 AM

Mincha 7:55 PM Candle Lighting 7:50 The Rav Will Speak Between Mincha/ Maariv

Do Not Begin The Seder Before 8:59 PM

ZMANIM CONTINUED

Tuesday April 23rd First day Pesach

Shachris 8:50 AM Mincha 7:55 PM Harav Hershel Schachter Will Speak between Mincha/ Maariv

Do Not Begin Seder or Preparations Before 9 PM

Wednesday Second Day Pesach

Shachris 8:50 AM Mincha 7:55 PM Harav Hershel Schachter Will Speak Between Mincha/ Maariv Maariv 9:01 PM Start Saying Vesayn Beracha In Bareich Aleinu

Thursday First Day Chol Hamoed

Shachris 8:15 AM Mincha/ Maariv 7:55 PM

Friday Second Day Chol Hamoed

Shachris 8:15 AM Mincha 6:30 PM Candle Lighting 6:45 PM – 6:53 PM Regular Candle Lighting 7:55 PM

Shabbos Chol Hamoed

Shachris 8:45 AM Mincha 7:45 PM There will Be No Shalosh Seudah In Shul Rabbi Goldberger Will Speak Between Mincha Maariv Maariv 9:05 PM

Sunday Erev Yom Tov

Shachris 8:30 AM Mincha 6:35 PM Candle Lighting 6:47 PM-6:55 PM Regular Candle Lighting 7:57 PM

Monday Shevei Shel Pesach

Shachris 8:45 AM Mincha 8 PM The Rav Will Speak Between Mincha Maariv No Preparations Or Candle Lighting Before 9:08 PM

Tuesday Acharon Shel Pesach

Shachris 8:45 AM
Yizkor Not Before 10:15 AM
Mincha 8PM
Neilas Hachag:
Jonathan Donath Founder Of Daily Giving
Will Speak About The Daily Giving
Solidarity Trip He Took To Eretz Yisrael
Maariv 9:09 PM







SPEAKERS OVER YOM TOV

First Night: The Rav
Second Night: Harav Hershel Schachter
Third Night: Harav Hershel Schachter
Shabbos Between Mincha Maariv: Rabbi Goldberger
Monday Night Achron Shel Pesach: The Rav
Tuesday Night Neilas Hachag: Mr. Jonathan Donath
Founder of Daily Giving

- 1. When dipping the Karpas into salt water: Has anything ever happened to you which seemed bitter at the time but later turned out to be sweet?
- 2. When breaking the middle matzah and hiding it for later: What is a "hidden" aspiration that you have, i.e. something that you have postponed for later in life but you plan/aspire to one day get to?
- 3. When speaking about Hashem's promise to Avraham: Why did Avraham merit to be the father of the Jewish people? What does it mean to be the child of Avraham? Are we living up to it?
- 4. What contributions have the Jewish people made to humanity over history?
- 5. When speaking about how the Jewish people were sent down to Egypt: How have the hardships in our life helped us become better people?
- During Vehi She'Amdah: Why has there always been so much anti-Semitism in the world?
- 7. When speaking about the beginnings of Jewish life in Egypt: How does the Jewish people's assimilation into Egyptian culture resemble Jewish assimilation throughout history?
- 8. When speaking about Jewish identity in Egypt: What does Jewish identity mean in today in galus?
- 9. When speaking about the harsh slavery: In our day-to-day lives, do we really love what we do or are we more like slaves to our work?
- 10. The word Mitzrayim (Egypt) resembles the Hebrew word for constriction. What is your personal Mitzrayim? What is holding you back the most?
- 11. When speaking about the makkos: Are there signs in our life pushing us to change that we are just refusing to see?
- 12. Paraoh Vs. Moshe: What are the ingredients to be a great leader?
- 13. If you knew for certain that Hashem would help you succeed, even through miracles, what new endeavor would you take on?
- 14. When speaking about jumping in the Red Sea: What have you done recently to step out of your comfort zone?
- 15. When singing Dayneu: What are the gifts in our life that make it all worth it?
- 16. When reciting Hallel: If you could fully express gratitude to someone in your past who really made a difference in your life, who would it be?
- 17. When eating matzah: If you could eradicate laziness from your life and live with complete discipline, what could you accomplish?

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Sammy and Yehudis Sutkin on their marriage this past sunday! May they be zoche to build a bayis ne'eman be'visrael!

KIDDUSH

Kiddush this week is sponsored by the Livshits family in honor of Yosef Ben Moshe's Yarhtzeit.

Shalosh seudos still available.

HALACHA

One must use two complete loaves for lechem mishna. A loaf is considered whole even if it has a split or crack in it, provided that when one lifts the challah by the weaker section it will not break into two.

Loaves that became attached during baking can be separated and are still considered whole.

According to some authorities a loaf is still considered whole if less than 1/48 of the loaf is missing.

Pull apart challos may be separated and each part can be used as a separate challah.

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