



Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

Illustrations by: Yocheved Nadell

פֶּרֶשֶׁת צו

Costumes on Pesach

Sponsored anonymously

לזכות החולים שיתרפאו והבריאים שלא יחלו

אָבִינוּ מִלְכֵּנוּ! מִנַּע מַגֵּפָה מִנַּחֲלָתָךְ.

Costumes on Pesach

Tzvi Meister is waiting on line at Bing's Kosher Discount store watching the customers in the matzah aisle choose the brand of matzah they want for the Seder night.

"I don't really understand why everybody makes such a big deal about eating matzah," thought Tzvi to himself. "I mean, I know it's a big mitzvah — and it even tastes good and all — but it costs so much money. I heard Totty telling Mommy that he's going to have to take a second job just to pay for the matzah this year. Thirty dollars for a little box?! It's meshugeh! What is it, anyway?! It's just some big crackers!

"And it's not only the money — it's the whole ceremony that is so strange. Everybody is sitting around the table, chewing on the matzah, as if it's the most important thing that happened all year. There are a lot of other mitzvos that we don't make such a big deal about."

"Tzvi," called Mommy. "I'm finished paying, so please help me get all the bags into the car. I want to be home by 10 o'clock so you won't miss your Rebbi's conference call. He said that today's the last day of Phone Yeshiva before Yom Tov."

Back at the Meister home, it's very noisy because everyone is home. And even though the weather outside is beautiful, Mrs. Meister is not allowing any of the children on the front porch. Tzvi is on the phone, trying to ignore the noise and listen to the end of his Rebbi's Chumash shiur.

Rabbi Spira:

Boys, I hope you can all hear me over the phone. Because this week's parsha, Parshas Tzav, is also Shabbos Hagadol, we'll end off with a d'var Torah from the parsha that will prepare us for Pesach. I'm sure some of you have been out shopping with your parents for yom tov and have seen the high prices for the matzah.

Don't think that it's the Coronavirus that's causing prices to go up this year. Even when I was a little boy, matzah costed a velt of gelt. Matzah is always expensive, and in Parshas Tzav we find one of the reasons that Hakodosh Boruch Hu made it happen that way.

"It says in this week's parsha that in the Beis Hamikdash, whenever the kohanim ate from the Korban Mincha (a korban that was made from flour), they always had to bake it into matzah.

"You remember when we went on our class trip to the matzah bakery after Purim — how everybody was running around, doing everything as quickly as possible to make sure that the matzah would be baked before 18 minutes passed? Well, that's only an imitation of what the kohanim were doing all year long in the Beis Hamikdash. The kohanim had to be careful all year long with the Korban Mincha so that it should be matzah and not chometz.

"Matzah is considered a special food for the kohanim. And that's one of the secrets of why we eat matzah. Of course there are a lot of reasons why we eat matzah on Pesach. That's why we say in the Haggadah that matzah is *lechem she'onim alav devarim harbeh* — it means that there are a lot of things to talk about when we're eating matzah. But one thing that our parsha reminds us about is that matzah is a special royal food for the kohanim."



“But Rebbi,” asked Tzvi, “if matzah is really a special food for kohanim, why do **we** eat matzah? We’re not kohanim.”

“Very good question, Tzvi. On Pesach night there’s a special mitzvah to imitate the kohanim —”

“But Rebbi, it’s not Purim — it’s Pesach! Why are we making believe we’re kohanim?”

“That’s exactly the point, Tzvi. We’re not making believe! We **are** kohanim! Hashem didn’t take us out of Mitzrayim just to be free people. He didn’t free us just because He felt bad for us. The reason He took us out is that He wants us to be His servants. Instead of serving the little midget Pharaoh, we now became the servants of the King of All Kings, the Creator of the Whole Universe.

“That’s what Hashem told us on Har Sinai. He said, ‘You’re My people now, and you’re going to be for Me a Mamleches Kohanim, a Nation of Priests.’ Hashem was telling us that from then on, just like the kohanim have the job of serving Hashem in the Beis Hamikdash, we have the same job — in our own homes — to do the same thing. We are also kohanim, whose job it is to serve Hashem all day long. Maybe we don’t shecht animals and put them on the mizbei’ach, and we don’t light the golden menorah and bake lechem hapanim. But we are still the Mamleches Kohanim; we are the servants of Hashem. We’re serving non-stop! All day long we’re busy with brachos, tefillos, mitzvos, chessed, thinking about Hashem, cleaning and cooking for yom tov. Everything is for Hashem because that’s our job in life — to be kohanim to Hashem. And on Pesach, we remind ourselves about that by eating matzah just like the kohanim did!”

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy Shabbos!

© Copyright 2020, Toras Avigdor

For sponsorship opportunities please call: 732.844.3670