



Parshas Ha'azinu, 5766
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PARSHAS HA'AZINU



Naomi's family was invited to Bubby's and Zeide's sukkah on the second night of Sukkos. Bubby and Zeide live in an apartment building, and many families built their sukkah in the courtyard. After the Yom Tov meal, Naomi played with the other children in the courtyard and peeked into the other sukkos.

On the way home, Naomi said: "Each sukkah looked different. Some were made of wood, and others were made of canvas or heavy plastic or white sheets. Some had benches, some had chairs. Some were decorated, and others weren't."

Naomi thought about it for a moment, then added, "They all looked different, but they were really all the same."

Naomi is right. Not only about the sukkos, but also about the people who enter the sukkah. We may look different, but we really are all part of one people. This is one of the most important lessons of Sukkos.

The Arba Minim are compared to all kinds of people. We hold the Arba Minim together - the lulav, esrog, haddasim and the arovos. Each one is different in size, shape, taste and smell.

Our Rabbis explain that taste and smell can be compared to learning Torah and doing mitzvos.

The esrog, with its taste and smell, is like people who are busy learning Torah and doing many mitzvos. The tasty fruit of the lulav

tree, the date palm, is like people who dedicate most of their day to studying Torah. The haddasim with their pleasant smell are like people who do as many mitzvos as they can. The plain arovos, which have no smell and no taste, are like people who have not yet begun to study Torah or to do mitzvos.

We bring these all together and make a berachah over them, showing the importance of achdus - bringing all different kinds of people together.

Let's take a closer look at each of these four. In its own way, each one of them shows achdus.

The lulav has many long, pointed leaves, but they are all connected tightly.

The esrog grows on the tree all year round. It dangles elegantly from its branch through each season, as if to say, "I can unite the growing powers of each season. I can thrive and grow in all of them!"

The Talmud tells us that arovos grow together in groups.

The small leaves on the haddasim grow in groups of three. They must all be growing in one line at equal height.

So Sukkos really means, "Jewish people, Unite! Show Achdus! This is what the Yom Tov is all about."

(Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. IV, Sukkos; Vol. XIX, Sukkos)

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MY FIRST WORD IS 4, MY SECOND STARTS AND ENDS WITH 40 AND WINE IS IN THE MIDDLE

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: All promises on the night of the Shabbos Shabboson

Answer: כל נדר

Congratulations to Yoni Bekhor, age 9 from Randolph, New Jersey for solving the brain buster.



י"ג תשרי

The רבי מהר"ש passed away on י"ג תשרי תרמ"ג.

The רבי מהר"ש tells us about the passing of the רבי מהר"ש.

"My grandfather passed away on י"ג תשרי at nine minutes before noon. At exactly 11:26, he took out his pocket watch and took it off from its chain. He then took a paper and put it into the mechanism, to make it stop when the hands would reach 11:51. Then he asked his שמש to call his sons into the room because he wanted to tell them about his will.

First ר' זלמן אהרן came in and the רבי מהר"ש spoke to him for a short time. When he left, my father, the רבי רש"ב came in and the רבי מהר"ש spoke to him, while tears streamed from my father's face. Then my father left and the youngest son, ר' מנחם מענדל entered. When he left the room, my grandfather, still sitting up in his chair, returned his נשמה to his Maker.

Starting from ראש השנה of the year תרמ"ד the רבי רש"ב slowly began to take on various parts of being a רבי. He started accepting people for יחידות, gave out written copies of מאמרים and started replying to written questions from חסידים.

ראש השנה of that year was also the first time that the רבי רש"ב moved his seat in the shul to the place where his father the רבי מהר"ש used to sit. This was a sign for all the חסידים that the רבי רש"ב had fully accepted the נשיאות.

DID YOU KNOW?



Building a Sukkah Reminds Us of Our History

When the מצרים came out of מצרים in the year 2448, they went straight into the huge סיני. Was that a good choice? They were about 3 million people with children and small animals, and here they were in a desert without food, and with no protection from the wild animals that roamed those areas.

This fact tells us something very special about the מצרים in that generation. They had a lot of trust. Would you and your family follow a נביא into the desert with no food or anywhere to live?

ה' sent them miraculous protection, known as the הכבוד ענני. There was one cloud showing them the way, one on top of them, one underneath them, and another four for the four directions. In this way they were protected on every side. No animals harmed them, and they glided safely over the bumpy ground.

To remember this נס, and more importantly to remember and strengthen our trust in ה', we sit in a סוכה for 7 days. We leave our beautiful homes where we are secure and we sit in a plain wooden hut. The rich and poor become equal. This reminds us that everything we have comes from ה' and we should be grateful and humble.

And of course we should be happy that ה' is looking after us just as he looked after our ancestors in the desert. Today we don't see הכבוד ענני surrounding us, but the סוכה walls remind us that ה' is taking care of us just the same.



Stories of the Rabbeim

“Please stop with your religious activities,” Shaul’s wife pleaded with him, “escape now, before you’re caught and it’s too late.”

Shaul lived in a small Russian town in the 1920’s. Those years were very difficult for the Jewish people. **אידישקייט** was completely against the law and Russian K.G.B. agents were everywhere, spying on frum Jews. Whoever was caught teaching or keeping to his religion was sent off to labor camps in freezing Siberia. Some were strong enough to survive the harsh weather conditions and heavy work, but most were never seen again.

Shaul lived during these difficult times. He continued living according to the **תורה**, and he helped those living in his community to keep up a frum life as well. The **אידין** around him were very grateful to him and they considered him their rabbi. He held a small **מנין** in his basement on **שבת** mornings; he supplied them with the **שופר** for **ראש השנה**; and he was the only one who dared to build a **סוכה** under the watchful gaze of the K.G.B.

His wife was very worried for him; she knew it was just a matter of time until the K.G.B. realized what he was doing. “Escape now,” she begged him, “Otherwise, you’ll end up in Siberia and we’ll never see you again.”

“I’ll just stay for **ראש השנה**,” he said, “and then I’ll leave. How could I leave the Jews here alone without a **מנין** or **שופר**?” Reluctantly she agreed and they spent a tense **ראש השנה**, shaking in fear every time there was a knock on the door.

After **ראש השנה**, Shaul turned to his wife, “You see, it was okay, let me just stay for **יום כיפור**. After all, how could I leave the **אידין** alone without a **מנין** for the holiest day of the year?” His wife sighed and gave in, but she felt the mounting tension in the cold Russian wind, and she knew that any moment now the dreaded knock could come.

“You must leave now,” she told him after **יום כיפור**. “I’ll just wait until after the first day of **סוכות**,” he said,

“then I’ll really go. I want to give everyone a chance to say a **ברכה** in the **סוכה**.” So he built a tiny **סוכה** on his back porch, and on the first night of **סוכות**, he invited all his friends to squeeze inside and make a **ברכה** for eating in the **סוכה**. Their joy was indescribable; every second in the **סוכה** was precious to them. They couldn’t believe that they had managed to eat in a **סוכה** in Communist Russia.

Shaul knew that this was his last night with his fellow **אידין**, and so they sat together for many long hours, strengthening each other and exchanging last **ברכה** and good wishes. When his guests left, Shaul suddenly felt very tired. He knew he would have to leave early the next morning. His wife was right; the time had come. He wondered when he would see his family again.

He poured himself a cup of water – and then he remembered. As a **חסיד**, his **מנהג** was not even to drink water outside of the **סוכה**. So, even though he was tired, he put on his warm winter coat, and went out to the cold **סוכה**. He drank his water and then sat for awhile in the **סוכה**, enjoying his last moments in the holy atmosphere of the **סוכה**.

Suddenly he heard the dreaded knock, and his blood froze in his veins. “Open up,” the KGB said harshly, “It’s the police!” Shaul crouched in the corner of the **סוכה** and held his breath. The KGB knocked again even harder. He heard his wife answering the door. “Where’s your husband?” they asked. “He’s visiting relatives,” she replied.

“I bet he’s hiding here somewhere,” they officers said and began searching the house. They searched the small house but found no one there. “I guess the bird has flown away,” they said disappointedly.

The minute he heard the door closing behind them, Shaul jumped over the **סוכה** porch fence, ran through the back streets to the train station, jumped onto the back of a train, and escaped. He thought with longing about the little **סוכה** behind his house, and he thanked **ה'**, for the **סוכה** had saved his life.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

פרשת האזינו

Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221- 0985 or e-mail it to connections@shluchim.org by Wednesday

Level 1&2

Find the סוכות words in the Word-Search

ז	ק	ש	ה	י	ש	ל	ל	ה	ר	ו	ת	ת	ח	מ	ש	א	ז	ף
מ	ה	ד	ע	ת	ג	ח	ב	ק	ל	ד	ה	ר	ב	ח	ש	ט	ד	ר
ן	ה	ב	ר	ב	ה	ת	א	ז	ו	י	א	צ	ך	ג	ב	צ	א	ץ
ש	ד	ר	ב	ו	צ	ן	מ	ק	ב	צ	ת	ע	ג	כ	י	ד	ד	ו
מ	ס	ח	ו	ש	ה	ב	ל	ו	ל	ת	ל	י	ט	נ	ל	ע	א	ס
ח	י	ת	ת	ז	ו	ר	נ	ס	י	ע	נ	ו	ע	נ	י	א	א	ש
ת	ס	ן	ח	ל	ש	א	ט	כ	ן	ו	נ	י	ח	ה	ש	מ	ה	ג
נ	ת	ת	ו	נ	ע	ש	ו	ה	ס	כ	ס	מ	ב	פ	ב	ה	פ	ת
ו	ר	ו	מ	ס	נ	י	ח	ך	ת	ג	י	ש	י	ע	ב	ל	ו	ל
ת	פ	ר	ס	ש	א	ת	ר	ו	ג	ט	ב	ז	א	ה	ס	ו	ג	י
צ	ע	ה	ק	נ	ר	ז	פ	י	ק	ז	י	ט	ו	ח	ו	ח	פ	פ
י	ו	ס	ט	ו	ב	ק	ש	ל	ה	ן	ב	ח	ס	ו	כ	ה	ד	ת
נ	פ	ף	ס	ק	ה	מ	ו	ת	ל	ס	י	ר	ע	נ	ה	ל	כ	ה
ה	ב	א	ו	ש	ה	ת	י	ב	ת	ח	מ	ש	ל	ד	נ	מ	פ	נ
ן	ע	פ	י	כ	ל	מ	ע	ס	נ	ס	ט	ף	י	ס	א	ה	ג	ח
ת	ו	כ	ו	ס	ה	ג	ח	י	ר	ש	ת	ל	ב	ש	ו	ד	י	ק

- אושפיזין
- קידוש הלל
- הקפות
- הושענות
- ערבות
- הדסים
- אתרוג
- לולב
- תפילת גשם
- וזאת הברכה
- חתן בראשית
- חתן תורה
- שמחת בית השואבה
- שהחינו
- לישב בסוכה
- על נטילת לולב
- סוכה
- תשרי
- חול המועד
- שמחת תורה
- שמיני עצרת
- הושענא רבה
- יום טוב
- זמן שמחתנו
- חג האסיף
- חג הסוכות

הצלחה רבה

Name: _____ Age: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:
 Motti Diskin, age 9 from Munich, Germany &
 Avremel Kugel, age 12 from New York, New York



סוכות

Things to do - ערב סוכות:

- Help prepare for יום טוב
- Watch or help your father prepare the לולב
- Give extra צדקה for the 2 days of יום טוב
- (Girls) Light candles and say the following ברכות:

ברוך אתה ה'..... להדליק נר של יום טוב
ברוך אתה ה'..... שהחינו.....

Things to do - סוכות:

- Say "לישב בסוכה"
- Say a דבר תורה and sing a ניגון during the סעודה
- Bentch לולב and אתרוג
- Go to Shul and daven nicely
- Listen to קריאת התורה

- Go under the טלית for, or listen to ברכת כהנים
- Remember to say יעלה ויבא in Benching
- Go on מבצעים to help Yidden bentch לולב and אתרוג

Things to do - חול המועד:

- Daven, making sure to say הלל and מוסף (every day)
- Bentch לולב and אתרוג (every day)
- Remember to say יעלה ויבא in Benching (every day)
- Go on מבצעים to help Yidden bentch לולב and אתרוג (at least once)
- Dance by a שמחת בית השואבה (at least once)

Names Of סוכות

1. **החג** - The festival. Whenever the name החג appears by itself in the תורה, it refers to סוכות.
2. **חג הסוכות** - Festival of Booths. Because during this יום טוב we live in booths.
3. **חג האסיף** - Festival of Gathering. Because this time of year is right before fall and the farmers gather their produce and bring it indoors before the rain begins to fall.
4. **זמן שמחתינו** - Time of Rejoicing. Certainly we are happy on all ימים טובים, but on סוכות we have a special מצוה to rejoice.



אושפיזין

We know that the סוכה is a holy place because it's like the ענני הכבוד that protected the אידן in the desert but that is not the only special thing about our סוכה.

Did you know that there are seven special guests who come down from שמים to visit us in the סוכה? These are the seven shepherds. They visit each day of סוכות, and each day another one of them leads the group. They are: משה, אהרן, דוד המלך, אברהם, יצחק, יעקב, יוסף.

We welcome these guests known by their Aramaic name "אושפיזין" proudly and happily, although we cannot see them. Of course we also make sure to invite physical guests and needy people, so that our סוכה is filled with joy and מצוות.

