



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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סוכות

In Hashem's Sukkah

Sponsored:

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of our dear son,
Shemuel-Chai.

May you continue to grow
in Torah and Yirat Shamayim! Shteig Well!!

In Hashem's Sukkah

This Sukkos would be the first time that Moishy's mother and father are going to let him sleep in the sukkah, and Moishy is super excited. Helping build the sukkah and put up the decorations was a lot fun and eating in the sukkah is exciting too, but sleeping in the sukkah all night, that would be the most exciting part of the mitzvah for sure.

So let's take a peek at how Moishy spent his first night sleeping in the sukkah:

9:45 It's one hour after the seuda and Moishy is trying to fall asleep on his mattress. He hears some scratching outside of the sukkah. Is it a squirrel? Or worse, maybe it's a raccoon! I hope that the door to the sukkah is really locked! Wait, is there even a lock on the sukkah?!

9:55 Moishy is still trying to fall asleep but he hears drip, drip, drip. Is it starting to rain? Or is that the air-conditioner leaking? Maybe it's something else?!

10:00 There's some scraping sound out there. Is somebody by the door? Maybe it's not really so safe here in the sukkah. I hope it's not the goy from across the street looking for trouble! He could just blow on the sukkah and it would come down! Maybe Mommy was right — sleeping in the sukkah wasn't such a good idea after all.

10:05 These mosquitoes are eating me up! Well, I guess mosquito bites are better than bee stings. I hope that the bumble bee that was flying around the sukkah during the seudah doesn't come back!

10:10 Wow, it's really getting windy outside. I never realized how loud the wind is! I hope it doesn't blow off the s'chach!

10:15 Totty comes out to the Sukkah to see how Moishy is doing.

“Hi my big tzadik! Why are you still awake? I thought you were sleeping for a half hour already. How are you going to get up for davening tomorrow?”

“Totty, I almost fell asleep but the squirrels and raccoons woke me up. And then I almost fell asleep again but the raindrops and the air conditioner and the mosquitoes and the wind keep waking me up. Maybe Mommy was right – I think that this year I should sleep in my room and I should wait till next year to sleep in the sukkah.”

So Totty helped Moishy carry his blanket and pillow up to his room and tucked him in to bed. And as Moishy warmed up and got comfortable, Totty told him the following:

“Moishy, do you know why Hashem wants us to live in a sukkah for seven days? We do it because we want to remember the tents in the midbar. Moishy, you know how uncomfortable you were when the mosquitoes were biting? And how scared you were when you heard those scratching sounds outside the sukkah?”

But you should know that in the midbar the yidden had a lot more to be afraid of. They had much worse than raccoons — there were hungry tigers and poisonous snakes roaming around. There were sandstorms and heavy rainstorms and boiling hot days and



freezing cold nights! And instead of just one troublemaker, they were afraid of big armies — Amalek and Moav and many other big nations.

Now, they had to live like that not for seven days — they lived surrounded by danger for forty years. And they couldn't just leave the sukkah and go up to their warm and safe room like you can, Moishy. They had to live in these little flimsy sukkos every night for forty years!

And you know what happened? Nothing! Nothing happened for forty years! Forty years — that's almost 15,000 nights of sleeping in the dangerous desert in sukkos and nothing happened!

Now, really everything should have happened. There should be stories of so many tragedies from those forty years. But there aren't. You know why not? Because Hashem was watching over us. What should have been the most dangerous time in our history was actually the safest. At that time we were actually more protected than any other time in our history! Hashem was surrounding us with His *ananei hakavod* and we were completely safe.”

And that's why we live in the sukkah for seven days — to remind us about that big neis and to remember that Hashem is always watching over us. All year long we live in strong houses made out of brick and we have heavy doors with double locks, but for one week we live in the sukkah and we practice knowing that the only real protection for us is Hashem. Hashem doesn't change. He is still protecting us now just as he was then.

Good night, Moishy. Just remember that just like you feel very safe tonight sleeping in your bed, next year when you're sleeping in the sukkah, you're going to be just as safe — because it's not the sukkah walls that are protecting you, it's Hashem Himself!

Have a wonderful Sukkos !

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