



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פרשת וילך

Fulfilling Yom Kippur Kabbalos

Sponsored:

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

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Fulfilling Yom Kippur Kabbalos

Dovid came back from Shacharis on Erev Yom Kippur. As he sat down to eat breakfast, he said something very interesting to his mother: “Mommy, I’m done with aveiros. I don’t plan on doing aveiros ever again!” Dovid’s rebbi at yeshiva had really inspired the boys during the last few days of the Aseres Y’mei Teshuvah and Dovid was really serious — he meant business this year!

“Dovid, that’s beautiful!” said his mother. “I’m so proud of you! I hope Hashem helps you fulfill your words because that’s a big kabbalah, a big resolution to make! But do you really mean it?” his mother asked.

“Well, tomorrow on Yom Kippur I’m getting a clean slate. And I’ve decided I’m not going to mess it up ever again.”

“You know, Dovid, you remind me of a story I once heard about a man named Shmelke Nuta. Did I ever tell you the story before? One erev Shabbos, Shmelke Nuta came home from work and he saw that his wife had a very worried look on her face.

“‘We’re having a bit of trouble,’ she said urgently. ‘The pipe under the sink is leaking pretty bad. I put a pan under the sink but it’s filling up quickly!’

“So Shmelke Nuta ran over to the closet, took out his little toolbox, found the wrench he needed, and quickly got to work under the sink. Shmelke Nuta had once bought a book called *Plumbing for Dummies*, but he didn’t actually bother opening it. Even though he wasn’t an expert plumber, or even close to an expert plumber, he remembered the rule “righty-tighty, lefty-loosy,” and he figured that knowing that rule plus some good intentions would be enough.

“Don’t forget: righty-tighty,’ Shmelke Nuta said to himself as he stuck his head into the cabinet under the sink and got to work while his wife whispered a *kapitel Tehillim* under her breath. A few seconds later she heard her husband say, ‘Uh oh! Oh, no! Oh, my! Ribbono Shel Olam — help me, please!’ and soon the whole floor was flooded!

“Now, I don’t have to tell you that Mrs. Shmelke Nuta was not too excited to see the water slowly making its way toward their living room carpet. Not only had her husband not fixed the problem, he had made it worse! Shmelke Nuta didn’t know what to do. He said to his wife, ‘I promise you, from now on I’ll be the best handyman. I’ll be better than any plumber!’

“Really?! How is that going to happen?”

“What do you mean? You don’t trust me?! I told you I’ll be a good plumber; I won’t mess up anymore! I’m done with making mistakes. I don’t plan on doing things wrong ever again.’



Dressing as a plumber won't make you a plumber...

“But then Shmelke Nuta realized that just saying words wasn’t enough. Wanting to do good and speaking about it is very important — it’s a good start — but it’s only a start, that’s all. If he wanted to know anything about plumbing, anything about not making plumbing mistakes ever again, he would have to spend some time reading that *Plumbing for Dummies* book that was collecting dust on the shelf.”

In this week’s parshah we learn the following passuk: לְמַעַן יִלְמְדוּ וַיִּירְאוּ אֶת הַשֵּׁם — so that you will learn yiras Hashem. To be ehrlich, to be a boy or girl who fears Hashem and doesn’t do aveiros is not easy at all; there’s a lot you need to learn. A lot of mussar, a lot of halachah, and a lot of thinking about how to improve.

And that’s what Dovid’s mother said to him: “You can’t just say, ‘This year I’ll be good’ and that’s all. Of course, you *have* to say it. Saying the words is already a big step forward, but לְמַעַן יִלְמְדוּ וַיִּירְאוּ אֶת הַשֵּׁם is teaching us that it takes work to change yourself.

Everyone who wants to make this year a better year should say exactly what Dovid said: “This year, I’m done with aveiros!” But after you say that you also have to decide to learn something that will teach you how to be good!

Baruch Hashem, today we have so many sefarim for children, so many English books that can teach us how to take our words and make them into a reality! And if we’re serious about making this year a better year than last year, we’ll make sure to learn at least a little bit of mussar every day, and fulfill the passuk in our parshah, לְמַעַן יִלְמְדוּ וַיִּירְאוּ אֶת הַשֵּׁם — studying how to become aware of Hashem.

**Have a wonderful Shabbos
and a kesivah vachasimah tovah!**

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