



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

Illustrations by: Yocheved Nadell

פְּרֻשֶׁת בְּשֵׁלַח

All Kinds of Flavors

נתנדב לעילוי נשמת

אאמו"ר ר' אפרים דוב ב"ר יחיאל מיכל ז"ל

נלב"ע ו' שבט תשס"ז

All Kinds of Flavors

Hi, everyone! My name is Ephraim and I want to tell you a hashgacha pratis story that happened to my family a few weeks ago. We were in the car on the way back from the gigantic worldwide Siyum Hashas, and we were all so excited that everyone was speaking at once. We couldn't hear each other because everybody wanted to talk about what he saw or what she noticed.

Suri was trying to tell us how proud she felt when the camera kept going back to our dancing circle so that they were able to see Abba, Eli Moshe, and me on the big screens. She said it made her feel like she was right there dancing along with us.

And Eli Moshe was saying that it was so much fun dancing on the field that he even forgot about how cold he was — he said that he couldn't even feel his toes anymore, but he didn't notice it.

Meanwhile, Chaya Libby was asking us if we noticed that everyone in our circle looked different. "Ephraim, you were holding hands with a chassidishe boy, and then Abba and Eli Moshe were talking to that man in the pink shirt. It was so interesting to see so many different types of Jews in one place."

"That's a very good point, Chaya Libby. It was a beautiful variety of Jews. I noticed that too."

But it was really getting too loud in the car and finally Abba asked us to quiet down because he was getting a headache. "Eli Moshe, can you reach under the seat and see if I have a CD with some shiurim there? Let's take a break from talking and listen to some Torah."

"I feel something under here," said Eli Moshe. "Yeah, it's a Rav Miller shiur. It says: #870 – Beloved Diversity of Israel."

"Beautiful," said Abba. "Put it in and we'll listen for the rest of the ride home."

Now, when Abba put the shiur on, I thought that I would probably fall asleep listening because I was really tired from the long day; but then I heard Rav Miller ask a good question on this week's parsha, so I ended up listening to the whole thing. I can't say I understood everything because sometimes he uses big words, but I got the main idea.

Rav Miller quoted a pasuk in this week's parsha that says that when Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim, one of the stops we made was in a place called Eilim. And the Torah says that there were twelve streams there, one for each shevet. Each shevet, when they went to draw water, went to their own stream instead of mixing with the other shevatim. And we see that Hashem planned it that way — it wasn't an accident that there were twelve separate streams there.

And soon after that, when the Am Yisroel came to Har Sinai, the same thing happened. The Torah says that Moshe Rabeinu built twelve matzeivos, twelve different pillars at the bottom of the mountain so that each shevet would remain separate.

Why was all that necessary? They were one nation traveling in the desert together — why couldn't they have one big



stream and gather together there? They were all going to receive the Torah together. Isn't that the most special thing about the Am Yisroel — that we're one nation, together?

And Rav Miller said that Hashem was teaching us a very important lesson by creating twelve separate streams. Hashem loves the variety in the Am Yisroel. It's like when you go to the ice-cream store and you see so many different flavors and toppings. And there are sugar cones and plain cones and cups and soft ice-cream and hard ice-cream. It's the variety that makes the ice-cream store so much fun!

All the different types of Jews, with different minhagim, and different ways of speaking, and different ways of dressing, and even different ways of thinking — but all of us dedicated to serving Hashem Echad with all of our differences. That's what makes us into the greatest nation in the world! And as different as we are from one another, we're all together **בְּאִישׁ אָחָד בְּלֵב אָחָד** because of our dedication to Hashem and His Torah!

And if Hashem loves the variety, that means we're also supposed to love the variety in the Am Yisroel. Instead of seeing differences, you should see all types of tasty flavors. And not only that, but the differences give us a great opportunity to become an even better servant of Hashem because we can learn good things from different types of people – everybody has something good that we can imitate.

And that was Hashem's plan from the beginning when He took us out of Mitzrayim to be His people. And that was one of the special things that we got to see at the Siyum Hashas — all the different types of Jews, all of them with their different ma'alos joining together to serve Hashem. Isn't it interesting that of all the CDs floating around Abba's car, Eli Moshe found this one?!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

© Copyright 2020, Toras Avigdor

For sponsorship opportunities please call: 347.755.8860