



# Toras Avigdor

## Junior

Adapted from the teachings  
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

Illustrations by: Yocheved Nadell

פְּרָשַׁת מִשְׁפָּטִים

## Rhymes for the Times

Sponsored in Memory of our grandfathers:

יעקב בן פרידה ע"ה, ונתן בן לאה ע"ה

Jack Gindi A"H & Nat Zalta A"H

## Rhymes for the Times

“Hi, Ma! I’m home!” shouted Yehuda Markowitz as he put his coat down in the middle of the hallway. He raced into the dining room, dropped his briefcase on the floor and took out his gemara.

“I have some good news and some bad news, Ma! We just finished the first perek in Bava Kama and we’re having a big siyum this Monday — pizza, fries, cake, knishes, soda. I can’t wait!”

“Wonderful,” said Mrs. Markowitz. “So I guess the siyum is the good news and the stomachache you’re going to get that night is the bad news?”

“Ma, please! I won’t overeat like last time. The real bad news is that Rebbi expects every pair of chavrusas to make a song, a little rhyme, about one of the mishnayis that we learned. That way, at the siyum we’ll have a song for every mishnah in the perek.

“That’s so beautiful,” said Mrs. Markowitz.

“But Ma! It’s nooooot! It’s so embarrassing! Rhymes?! We’re not in Pre-1A! And worst of all, my chavrusa Tzvi and me have to go first because we got mishnah alef — that means we have to embarrass ourselves before everyone else.

“Look at the bright side, Yehuda. At least you don’t have to do dances and hand motions like Esther did at her Chanukah play.”

“Ma, really! What am I gonna do? The mishnah is talking about the olden days – how a person digs a hole in the street and somebody’s ox falls into it and gets hurt – but nobody digs holes in the street today and even if they did, who owns an ox nowadays? What do I know about the arba avos nezikin that the mishnah discusses?”

“Yehuda, I’m sorry. I never even heard of the ‘arovos zekeinim.’ We didn’t learn Bava Kama in Beis Yaakov. Totty will be home from work soon — I’m sure he’ll be able to help you.

“But do me a favor and pick up your coat from the floor. I just bought that for you this winter and I want you to wear it for at least a year or two. If you take care of it, maybe you can hand it down to Avrumi, too. And please put your briefcase in the closet — I don’t want to even think about what could happen if Savta comes to visit and she trips on it.

### Later that evening ...

“Yehuda,” said Totty. “I’m so proud of you. Mommy said you’re preparing to give a d’var Torah song to your class, did you get anywhere with that?”

“Yes Totty, I’m so glad you asked, because I really need help. Listen to what I have so far:

*I have a neighbor, Mr. Pocks,  
Who likes to wear colorful socks,  
And owns a big humongous ox.  
But he lets it walk in the street,  
And it always eats up my wheat,  
Even though it’s not so sweet.”*



“That’s great!” laughed Totty. “But let’s see if we could make it a little more shayach to today’s world. Do you mind if I help you out?”

“Not at all, Totty! I’ve been waiting for you since I got home!”

“Well, how about we look around the room and see if we can apply the dinim of the mishnah to our lives. You see that coat lying on the floor in the hallway? Do you know how it got there?”

“Well, ummm, I think, maybe, it could be that I forgot to put it away when Mommy asked me.”

“Well, that’s called adam hamazik, a person who does damages — that’s one of the four avos nezikin in the mishna. Even if you forgot, we’re taught in Parshas Mishpatim that a mazik is chayav even for a mistake. Your Mommy and Totty own that coat and if you ruin it, you’re a mazik. See, you’re famous, Yanky! You’re mentioned in the mishnah!

“And what about your briefcase sitting in the middle of the dining room floor? Whoever put it there made a bor, a pit, for someone to trip on. That’s also in the mishnah. And your scissors that you left on the floor? That’s another bor! Chas v’shalom if little Dovid Aryeh would get his hands on that!

“Now, I could go on. You see this glass of water that you put on the edge of the table? Let’s say you open the window to get some fresh air and a wind blows the cup onto the floor. That would be aish, another case from the mishnah — when wind gets involved and helps you do damage.

“So Yanky, you see that the mishnayos you learn apply nowadays as much as they ever did. When you learn Parshas Mishpatim with Rashi and you think it’s boring – that’s only because you’re not thinking about how the cases apply to you. Everything in Bava Kama and everything in Parshas Mishpatim is talking to us — all we have to do is think about how.

*“And once you know that,  
You won’t need me to chat,  
Because making a rhyme,  
Will be easier next time!”*

**Have a wonderful Shabbos!**

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