



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פְּרֻשֶׁת תּוֹרָה

The Wonderful Smell

Sponsored in In loving memory of:

Elise Mesh

Esther Feigal bas Alexander

*Her generosity, kindness, vibrant spirit
and warm smile will always be remembered.*

Moshe & Sydney Harris and Family

The Wonderful Smell

10:00

Chanala and Shevy were going to be helping their mother in the kitchen the whole day. It was the last Sunday before Purim and there was a lot to do. They were baking cinnamon swirls and chocolate chip cookies and of course, hamantaschen, for shalach manos.

As usual, Elazar was getting in the way. “Mommy, I need a new gragger – this one doesn’t make enough noise!”

“Well, Elazar, you could have fooled me. Let me finish the baking and then I’ll take a look in the Purim box to see if we have any other ones.

“Mommy, while you’re looking for the gragger, can you check if we have any fireman costumes. I really wanna be a fireman this year.”

Chanaleh and Shevy giggled quietly. Only a few minutes ago Elazar had found a crown in the Purim box and decided he was going to be Achashveirosh. He had already changed his mind five times today about what he wanted to be on Purim – and it was only ten o’clock in the morning!

But no matter, everyone was in a good mood. The sweet smell of the fresh hamantaschen mixing with the cinnamon aroma coming from the oven gave the whole house a wonderful smell – it was that Purim aroma that put a smile on everyone’s face.

3:30

When Avigdor came home from yeshiva in the afternoon the scene in the kitchen was the same. Chanala, Shevy and Mommy

were working hard rolling dough and Elazar was still making plenty of noise with his gragger, only by now, he was on his tenth costume plan already.

“Mommy, it smells great here. Yummy! We were learning about the ketores today in the parsha and Rebbi said that the ketores gave off the best smell in the whole world – there was nothing anywhere that compared to it. But I bet that your hamantaschen are the second best.”

“Avigdor, that's so sweet!

“Really, Mommy. It puts me into such a good mood when I come home to the smell of your hamantaschen. Just the smell makes me love Purim! And actually that's what my Rebbi was telling us today about the special mizbeach in the Beis Hamikdash that was for burning the ketores every day.

“Rebbi said that when he was at one of Rav Avigdor Miller's Thursday night shiurim he heard Rav Miller explain that we have a special mizbeach for burning sweet smelling ketores in the



Beis Hamikdash is because we want the Beis Hamikdash to smell good! The ketores, Rav Miller said, is so that when we walk into the Beis Hamikdash we should feel that this is the sweetest place to be in the world and that nothing else is as important as the Beis Hamikdash.

Hashem wants us to attach good smells and good times and good feelings with the important things in this world. Mitzvos are fun! They're the most important thing we have and therefore we want them to taste good. Shuls are beautiful because nothing is more special than a shul — it's fun to be in shul talking to Hakodosh Boruch Hu.

Shabbos is exciting and the smell of the good Shabbos foods goes into our neshama and never leaves. Nothing smells as good as a Shabbos home because nothing is as special as Shabbos is!

That's the lesson of the ketores; that all of the important things in this world, all of the things that are important to Hashem have to be made sweet in our minds. When you walked into the Beis Hamikdash and smelled the ketores you felt that you were in the sweetest place in the whole world. And that's the truth — because being close to Hashem is the sweetest thing in the whole world.

And that's why we make Purim so much fun. Sweet smelling hamantaschen, a big exciting seudah, wild dancing, and enough costumes to make Elazar happy. It's all to bring out that the real fun of life, the real sweetness of being alive, is found only in mitzvos and in being close to Hashem.

***Have A Wonderful Shabbos
and a Freilichin Sweet Smelling Purim***

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