



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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וישב

The Real Reason



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Parshas Vayeishev

The Real Reason

Tuesday morning, Yeshiva Ketanah Bnei Avigdor

The big day had finally arrived! Yeshiva Ketanah Bnei Avigdor was ready for the visit of HaGaon Rav Dovid Feinberg, the biggest Rosh Yeshiva in America. All the boys, dressed in their Shabbos clothes in honor of the occasion, were waiting outside to greet the Rosh Yeshiva and now there was only one thing left to do. The menahel, Rabbi Jacobs, was going to choose one boy from the eighth grade to have the honor of opening the door of the car and helping the Rosh Yeshiva into the building. What a kavod!

Of course, every eighth grader was hoping he would be the one but when the announcement was made, everybody was shocked. Yossi?! Yossi Yaakovi, the new boy from Eretz Yisroel?! The youngest one in the class?! Nobody expected that!

The boys in his class all clapped for Yossi as he walked up to Rabbi Jacobs to stand next to him and wait for Rav Feinberg's car to arrive, but some of the boys weren't so excited. The four oldest boys in the class – Ruvy, Shimmy, Leiby and Yudi – were upset. Why did Yossi get picked? For such a big kavod shouldn't it be one of the oldest boys in the class?!

Sunday morning

Rav Feinberg's visit had been even more exciting than everyone had imagined but boys will be boys — now it was on to the next project, preparing for the big Chanukah mesibah.

Ruvy, Shimmy, Leiby and Yudi were working on decorations. As they started drawing posters they saw Yossi standing nearby, watching them.

"Yossi, is everything okay?" asked Ruvy.

"Yeah sure. But I was just wondering if maybe I could help with the decorations?"

"Aren't you in the group preparing the *divrei torah* for the *mesibah*?"

"We finished that last night," Yossi said, "So I was hoping I could help with the artwork too."

The four best friends looked at each other. They knew that Yossi was a decent artist — he was the one who had made the 3-D Teivah that was still displayed in the hallway — but ...

"I don't know," Shimmy was thinking. "His art is good, but the style is different, we're doing posters now, not 3-D models." Shimmy looked at Ruvy and knew that he was thinking the same thing. Meanwhile Leiby whispered to Yudi, "I don't think that it's right for someone from one group to join another group."

"I'm sorry Yossi," said Yudi, "We probably shouldn't mix groups. Maybe next year it will work out better."

"Oh. Okay," said Yossi sadly as the boys got busy again with their posters.

After Recess

"Shimmy," Rabbi said as the boys returned to the classroom. "Can I speak with you for a minute? The artwork you boys are working on looks great and I can't wait to see the final product! But I have to ask," Rabbi continued, "why did you tell Yossi that he can't help you with the decorations?"

Shimmy tried explaining all about how Yossi's style was different and also that it wasn't right to mix groups, but Rabbi shook his head. "Shimmy, I don't think that's the real reason. I think you might be a little bit jealous of Yossi."

"Jealous? No Rabbi, I promise that has nothing to do with it. I just don't think it will work. Didn't you see his teivas Noach project? This is a completely different type of design."

Rabbi smiled. "Shimmy, you know that it's possible to be jealous of someone without even realizing it?"



“You remember what we learned in this week’s parsha about how Yosef’s brothers sold him to be a slave. Now the Gemara says that they really thought they were doing the right thing - they were big tzadikim and they had a real Din Torah and paskened that Yosef was wrong.

“But Rav Avigdor Miller said in his shiurim that even the best people are fooled by their feelings. Really they were jealous of the extra special way Yaakov Avinu treated Yosef. ‘Why is Yosef picked to be the special one?’ They didn’t think they were jealous, but deep down that’s what made them think Yosef was doing an aveirah.

“You know,” said Rebbi, “there’s a reason Hashem told us this story in the Torah. He doesn’t say everything that happened. We don’t know what Reuven ate for breakfast that day or what time Shimon went to sleep that night. Hashem tells the stories that are meant to teach us lessons. And one very important lesson is that if such big tzadikim like Yosef’s brothers made that mistake, can’t it be possible that little tzadikim like you and Ruvy and Leiby and Yudi can make such a mistake too?

“Could it be maybe, just a little maybe, that you boys are a bit jealous that Yossi was chosen to be the one who welcomed Rav Feinberg last week? I saw in your face how disappointed you were when the menahel made the announcement. And I don’t blame you for being disappointed. I was jealous of Yossi too! But the trick is to not let those feelings hang around in your head and affect how you behave.”

5:30: After Dismissal

It wasn’t easy for Shimmy but he walked over to Yossi. “Yossi,” he said. “I was wrong before. We would love to have you help us with the decorations during recess tomorrow. Actually we need you for some good ideas!”

When Shimmy saw Yossi’s face light up he smiled to himself. This year’s Chanukah mesibah was going to be more beautiful to him than ever - not just because of the posters, but because of the effort he put in to get rid of the hidden jealousy in his heart.

Have A Wonderful Shabbos



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