

Terumah / תְּרוּמָה

Golden Children

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Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

"Look Mommy!" Shimmy said. "Weiss Bakery is giving out free samples of their new sprinkle-coated marshmallow-frosted strawberry-filled cookies! Can we please get some?"

Mommy peered at the cookies in the store window they were passing. "Okay, kinderlach," she said. "You've been very helpful today, so I think you each deserve a cookie."

As they walked into the store, the man behind the counter smiled at them.

"Here for the free cookies? How many would you each like?"

"You mean there's no limit per-customer?" Yitzy asked in wonder.

"Nope!" replied the man cheerfully. "You can have as many as you want!"

"I'll take fifteen," said Basya.

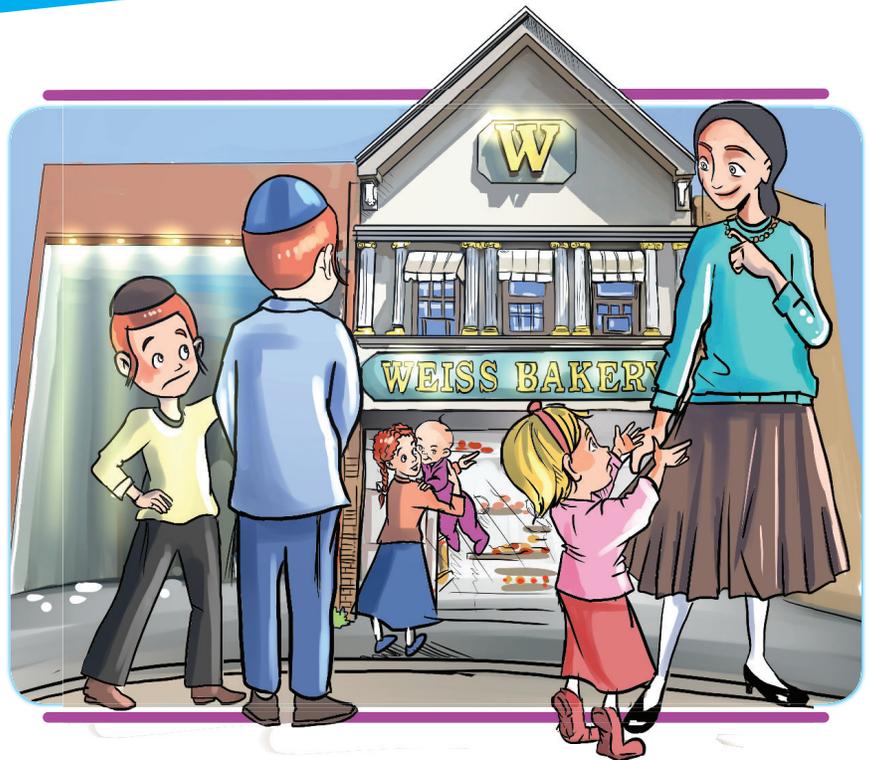
"I'll have twenty," Shimmy said.

"I'll take everything," said Yitzy. "Then I'll donate a few dozen back to you so other children can still get some."

"I want too much!" said Little Yaeli, jumping up and down in anticipation.

"We'll take four cookies," Mommy said firmly. "One per child."

"But Mommy!" all of the kids said at once, as the man handed each of them a cookie. "He said we can have as many as we want!"



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“And I’m saying that you can each have one,” Mommy repeated.

“It’s so hard being a kid,” Shimmy said disappointedly. “I can’t wait until I’m an adult so I can do whatever I want.”

“Kinderlach,” Mommy said softly, as they started walking towards the door. “Did you ever wonder why, in the *Kodesh Hakedashim*, the holiest place in the *Mishkan*, there were two *Keruvim*? The *Keruvim* were like two golden dolls, images of little children. Why did Hashem say that we should put two golden children right on top of the *Aron*?”

Before the children could answer, they were startled by a loud commotion at the counter behind them. An angry man was holding a cookie and yelling at the clerk.

“Will you look at this? This marshmallow in the middle of the cookie is not shaped properly! I want my money back!”

“Sir, it was a free cookie. You didn’t give us any money. We can replace it, though.”

“No, I want you to fix this one!”

“I’m sorry, sir, I don’t think we can do that.”

Mommy quickly ushered the children outside as the man continued to rage at the clerk.

Mommy continued, “*Rav Avigdor Miller Zt”l* says that the point of the *Keruvim* was to remind us about how precious it is to be children. As you get older, it’s harder to change your habits, while you’re still young that’s when it’s easiest to make yourself into a better person.

“The *Keruvim* are saying, ‘Children! Now is the opportunity to make the most out of your life. You have more energy and more time and it’s easier to

change yourself and to become better. Whatever effort you put in now will last you as you get older in this world and even into the Next World too.

“*Kinderlach*,” continued Mommy. “That’s also why children have Mommys. Because you need someone to remind you and to help you make the best of being a child. One cookie is best. It’s so important to spend your time now appreciating the things you have, and not wanting more and more. If you don’t learn to start appreciating the things you **do** have when you are young, it will not get any easier when you are an adult. And the practice you put in now is going to last you a lifetime.”

Just then the door to the bakery flew open and the angry man stomped out.

“Can you believe this place?! They wouldn’t fix my cookie or even take responsibility for the misshaped marshmallow,” the man muttered. “And why is the sun so bright? It’s blinding me! I can’t wait until the elections so we can get new politicians who will actually do something about this.”

The man stomped off, continuing to complain about everything, how the sidewalk was too hard, how electric cars are too quiet, how it’s too hot during the day, too cold at night, and how city buses have too many wheels.

“There are some people,” Mommy said as she walked in the opposite direction of the complaining man, “who when they were young, they never learned to be happy with the things they have - they are always waiting for something in the future to make them happy. And they never change. But the key to being an *Eved Hashem* is to be happy and grateful to Hashem for what you have now.”

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

**When we are children is the time to be happy with what we have.
If we learn to appreciate things and be happy now, we will be much better adults!**



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