

## Chanukah / חנוכה

# Time to Party?

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# Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings of Rav Avigdor Miller zt"l

The second day of Chanukah arrived and the school auditorium had transformed into a flurry of festivity in preparation for the school Chanukah party. The seventh grade girls had baked for an entire week and trays were piled high with every type of Chanukah treat imaginable. There were sufganiyot, latkes, huge cakes filled with jelly, cheese blintzes, cheese latkes, latkes in the shape of sufganiyot, sufganiyot in the shape of latkes, and so much more!

In addition, there were fun activity booths. There was one where you could compete to see who could make a dreidel that spins the longest. At another booth, girls could attempt to light a giant menorah by shooting a flaming arrow at it. And there were latke frying stations where whoever could make the most latkes in five minutes would win a giant stuffed elephant!

"Hello girls," Morah Esty said, walking into the auditorium, a half-hour before the mesibah was set to start.

"Hello, Morah Esty!" the girls replied cheerfully.

"How are the preparations going?" asked Morah Esty.

"Amazing!" Basya said. "Look, I'm running a gematria booth, where girls can compete to see how many words they can find with the same gematria as the word 'chanukah'! And Malky made latke flavored lollipops - do you want to try one?"



“But girls,” Morah Esty said. “Don’t you remember when I said that we can’t leave Chanukah out of this mesibah?”

“But it is all about Chanukah,” protested Channie. “Look, we even have a giant tub of Greek yogurt.”

“Don’t forget the Greek salad,” Rochel added.

“Maybe Morah Esty wants us to add more exclamation points to the ‘Happy Chanukah’ sign?” asked Ruty.

“I could make a new sign with all of the letters capitalized and in bold,” suggested Devorah.

“No, no, no,” said Morah Esty. “That’s not what I mean. Tell me, what is so special about Chanukah?”

The girls looked puzzled.

“Well, the Jews won the war, they found a tiny bottle of oil, they kindled the Menorah with it, and it stayed lit for eight days,” Basya said.

“Okay, and what’s so special about the Menorah staying lit for eight days?”

“Because they didn’t have enough oil to last more than a day, so Hashem made a *neis*. Otherwise they wouldn’t have been able to keep the Menorah lit.”

“And is that a reason why we should have eight days of celebration?” asked Morah Esty. “Hashem has done so many *nisim* for us over the years. So why should we spend over a week celebrating this one specifically?”

The girls looked at each other. They had never thought about this.

“I’ll explain it,” Morah Esty said. “The Menorah was a symbol that Hashem’s Shechinah rests within Klal Yisroel. Now, the story of Chanukah happened

at a period where they had not been allowed to light the Menorah for many years. So some people began to wonder, ‘is the Shechinah still with us?’ And suddenly there was this incredible miracle - at a time when we were no longer experiencing *nisim* like we did during the first Beis Hamikdash - and the Menorah stayed lit for eight whole days!

“Well Klal Yisroel were overjoyed by this! The Menorah, the symbol of the Shechinah resting on the Am Yisroel, is burning again! And it’s not going out! It’s something miraculous! Baruch Hashem the Shechinah did not leave us! And that’s what the Chanukah lights are proclaiming!

“But it’s not enough, just to light the *neiros*. We have to talk about the *neis*, about the One Who made the *neis*. So if we are going to make a Chanukah party, we have to make sure to talk about the *neis*. We make latkes too and we also play dreidel. But we cannot forget while doing all these things to talk over and over again about the *neis* of Chanukah!”

The girls looked at each other again. They had made this big *mesibah* and they left out the most important part! What could they do with only a few minutes until the party was set to begin?

“Don’t worry girls,” said Morah Esty. “I have something that will help you. I brought copies of this week’s Toras Avigdor Junior which talks about this exact point. We’ll give this out to everyone who comes and Basya, why don’t you take the microphone and read it to the girls in the younger grade?”

**Have a Wonderful Shabbos  
and a Freilichen Chanukah!**

### Let’s Review:

- What preparations were the girls making for the school Chanukah party?
- Why did Morah Esty tell them they left out the most important part?



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