

Youthful

The Maggid's Corner

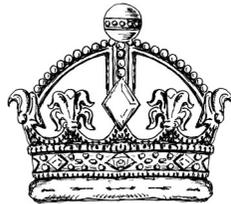
Learning Torah in Baghdad to Get a Tikun for a King' Neshama

Once, someone significant had a dream that a certain *mekubal* in Bagdad was a *gilgul* of Achaz the king of Yehuda. The Ben Ish Chai heard about it and commented:

“Look how long it has been from the days of Achaz until now and he is still trying to achieve his *tikun*.”

Fifty years later, a similar story occurred again. But this time, a significant person had a dream that a certain *talmid chacham* in Bagdad was a *gilgul* of Achav - the wicked king. The *talmid chacham* who this was spoken about was very disturbed by the news.

He went to meet with the Ben Ish Chai. The Ben Ish Chai said to him: “Do not to feel bad. First of all, only a small part of your *neshama* is from Achav, while most of it is your own. Secondly, do not dismiss the greatness of the *neshama* of a king from lofty times. We cannot comprehend either their sins or their vast greatness. Furthermore, only the good part of Achav's *neshama* is in you, and who knows if there is anyone in this generation that can boast of a *neshama* so great.” He concluded by wishing him *arichas yomim* and success in helping the *neshama* to achieve its *tikun*.



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◆ Please, don't read me during tefilla, kadish, etc. ◆

# Menucha

A Shabbos table companion for the whole family

## Challenges

### Halacha Challenge

TOPIC

The Best Time to Tidy up the House on erev Shabbos



Moishy, Miriam and Mendy came back from school on a Friday around twelve o'clock and began discussing when they should begin tidying up the house for Shabbos.

“Let's start now!” said Moishy with great excitement.

“Let's wait till about an hour or two before Shabbos,” suggested Miriam.

“It will take us twenty minutes to tidy up the house. So let's just start a half an hour before Shabbos,” proposed Mendy.

**Question:** Who offered the best plan?



### DEDICATIONS

- by **Aunt Miriam and Uncle Pinky Frankel**, in honor of the recent Bar Mitzvah of their GREAT nephew **Bentzi Frankel**
- by the **Salzberg family**, in gratitude to Hashem for the birth of their daughter **Aliza**
- By the **Sultan family**, l'ilui nishmas **R' Yizchak ben Yaakov**

Special thanks to kehillas **Beis Tefillah Yonah Avraham**



◆ requires geniza ◆

**Menucha's Answer:** Moishy and Miriam.

**Explanation:** As we learned in the previous articles, a person needs to tidy up his house in honor of Shabbos\*. The *Sha'arei Teshuva* writes the following regarding the question of when the house should be put in order *I'kavod* Shabbos (OC 262:1):

*The right time to arrange everything [in the house for Shabbos] is at Plag HaMincha - slightly before Plag HaMincha or shortly after Plag HaMincha; and not in the morning of erev Shabbos, nor very close to the evening.*

It seems that there are two reasons for why making house arrangements very close to the evening is improper. By making preparations for Shabbos very close to the evening a person is running into the risk of transgressing Shabbos, since he may get carried away in his preparation and continue working after sunset. In addition to that, by making preparations for Shabbos very close to the evening a person will be entering into Shabbos in a state of emotional and mental unrest. Entering into Shabbos in such way is inappropriate, because before Shabbos enters, a person needs to await for it with great joy and *menucha*. In the Laws of Shabbos [30:2], the Rambam writes how a person needs to enter into Shabbos:

*What is considered as honor [of Shabbos]?...And a person should sit with a focused mind, waiting to greet Shabbos as if he is going out to greet a king.*

Why is *Plag HaMincha* considered a unique point in time in respect to making the house arrangements for Shabbos? At that time—in contrast to the time prior to *Plag HaMincha*—it is more clear that the house is being arranged in honor of Shabbos. Having said that, some modern day *poskim* say that the custom is to be lenient with this, and tidy up the house even significantly prior to *Plag HaMincha* [*Halachically Speaking* publication v.4 issue 4].

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**Summary from the last two weeks:** The Rambam explains [Laws of Shabbos 30:1], that the *mitzva* of honoring Shabbos was taught to us by the *navi* Yeshayahu [58:13] - וְקִרְאתֶהּ "לְשַׁבַּת... לְקַדּוֹשׁ ה' מְכֻבָּד..." - "And if you establish Shabbos...the holy [day] of Hashem [to be] 'honored'..." Besides being clean and looking nice, part of honoring Shabbos is making the home look presentable. The source of this *halacha* is the *Braisa* of Rabbi Yosi bar Yehuda [Shabbos 119b] : "Two Malachei HaShares escort a person from shul to his home on erev (i.e. leil) Shabbos...and when the man comes to his house and finds a lit candle, and a set table and a [nicely] covered bed, a good Malach says: 'May the will be that it will be like this next Shabbos'..." Based on this, the Rambam writes [Laws of Shabbos 30:5]: "And on erev Shabbos, he needs to לְתַקֵּן בֵּיתוֹ (e.g., tidy up, set up the table, etc.) in honor of Shabbos."

**Riddle**



I am a blessing. There are days when no one says me. In fact, some of you will never say me. Yisro is my favorite parsha, because at first, I praise Hashem for the Written Torah and then for the Oral Torah. Which blessing am I?

**Answer to the last riddle:**

RIDDLE: I am not a kangaroo, And you won't find me in a zoo. I am a living creature. That is true. And in Beshalach my family will appear for you. You think I am a horse? Compared to me, it has a greater force. A "Farm Animal" is not me at all. So who am I after all?!

ANSWER: I am a worm! My family infested the *mann* of those who did not have *bitachon* in Hashem and saved the *mann* till the next day. My unpleasant appearance teaches you a lesson - a lack of *bitachon* in Hashem is not just improper, rather, a lack of *bitachon* is repulsive!



**Kids Ask, Zeidy Answers**



Zeidy – Why do people get up before the *Ba'al Koreh* begins reading the *Aseres HaDibros*? Are they showing that this part of the Torah is more special than the other ones?

Great question, kids! I think this *minhag* exists in Klal Yisroel due to the following Midrash on this weeks parsha [*Yalkut Shimoni Shemos*, 19]:

*Said the Holy One, Blessed is He to the Jewish nation: My children! Read this parsha every year and I will consider as if you are standing in front of Har Sinai and receiving the Torah.*



This cannot be referring to Shavuot, since the Chag itself is a day of receiving the Torah - irrelevant of the Torah portion that we read on it. Therefore, this Midrash is referring to a time when Klal Yisroel reads *Aseres HaDibros* on Shabbos Yisro.

Now, we see from this Midrash the importance of listening to the *Aseres HaDibros* this Shabbos. It is an opportunity not to be missed!