



Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings of Rav Avigdor Miller zt"l

Sefer Devarim sponsored by:



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The Greenbaums' sukkah looked amazing. Totty and the boys had built it bigger than ever this year, fulfilling Shimmy's dream of having a sukkah large enough to hold an elephant. Basya decorated the sukkah with little Yaeli's help, and the whole family agreed it was the most beautiful sukkah they had ever seen.

It was the first day of Sukkos, Totty and the boys came home from shul, and everyone took their seats in the sukkah. With a giant poster of the Horki Rebbe looking over them, Totty made kiddush and hamotzi, and Mommy brought out a feast fit for kings.

"Totty," asked little Yaeli. "Can I thank Hashem first?"

"Of course, Yaeli," said Totty. "How about today we go from youngest to oldest?"

"When I get bigger, I'm going to be older than evweebody!" said little Yaeli.

"So what do you want to thank Hashem for?" Mommy asked.

"Thank you Hashem for skock!" little Yaeli said proudly.

"You mean schach," Basya said gently.

"Yeah, skock!" little Yaeli said.

"Very good, Yaeli!" said Totty. "The schach is what makes it a sukkah! The reason the Torah gives for the mitzvah of sukkah is because Hashem protected us with sukkos in the midbar and sitting in the sukkah reminds us that even when we live in our strong sturdy house, Hashem is the one protecting us (see Toras Avigdor Junior - Sukkos 5784)."

"Thank you Hashem for the sun," said Yitzy. "Even though we are in a sukkah with walls and schach, the sun is so powerful that the little bit of light that gets through makes it bright enough that we can sit in the sukkah without needing to turn on the lights."

"Thank you Hashem for Tante Ahuva becoming a kallah!" said Basya with a huge smile.



“Thank you Hashem for such comfortable weather,” Shimmy said. “And also thank you for keeping the neighbor’s noisy dog from barking last night so I could sleep well in the sukkah!”

“Wow, kinderlach,” said Mommy. “Thank you Hashem for giving me such wonderful children who thank Hashem so beautifully.”

Everyone looked at Totty as he stood up and unfurled a long scroll.

“What is that, Totty?” asked Basya.

Totty read from the scroll. “Thank you Hashem for giving me arms with which I could build a sukkah and take daled minim. Thank you Hashem for the wonderful neighborhood in which we live. Thank you Hashem that we get to live within walking distance of the holy Horki Rebbe. Thank you Hashem for parnessah so we can afford to buy exquisite food l’kovod Yom Tov. Thank you Hashem that my children listen so respectfully whenever I speak...”



Totty went on as everyone listened respectfully. Finally, he finished his entire list and began rolling up the scroll.

“Totty,” Yitzzy said. “That was incredible, but can I ask why you thanked Hashem for so many things?”

“Tell, me, *kinderlach*, how is Sukkos described during davening and in kiddush?”

“Zman Simchaseinu,” said Shimmy.

“Correct,” said Totty. “Now why is that? What’s so happy about Sukkos that makes it specifically Zman Simchaseinu, more than the other Yomim Tovim?”

“I’m happy because of skock!” little Yaeli chimed in.

“We all are,” smiled Totty. “But just a few days ago was Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is a tremendously happy day. Look at the chessed Hashem does for us by giving us a day to do teshuva and to have our aveiros completely wiped away. But when we look back at our actions over the past year and ask Hashem to forgive them, we are also supposed to be looking back at all of the amazing things Hashem did for us as well. And five days later, on Sukkos, we are filled with gratitude to Hashem; we made it to this wonderful Yom Tov!

“Every day we should be thanking Hashem, but especially on Sukkos! If a person shows gratitude to what Hashem does for him, then Hashem will say ‘I see that you are using the gifts I am giving you in the correct fashion; therefore I will give you more’.

“As I look at you children, my eyes overflow with *simcha* and *nachas* in gratitude to Hashem. As we sit surrounded by the walls of our sukkah or wave our *daled minim* toward all sides, we think ‘thank you Hashem, you helped me so much, your help came from all sides’.”

Chag Kosher Vesomeiach!

Let’s Review:

- Why is Sukkos an extra-special time to thank Hashem?
- How many things can you think of right now for which to thank Hashem?