



A Taste of Shabbat

By HaRav Eli Mansour (Shiur E1)

Your Shabbat is wonderful. Can you imagine improving your experience?

טעמו וראו כי טוב – Taste and see

There are many ways that we get a 'taste' of Shabbat. One of those is via the study of the ל"ט מלאכות, and many took a step in that direction when they recently learned מסכת שבת. The הלכה gives us a sense and a taste of what Shabbat is meant to be like.

There are also the special שבת foods which give us a taste of what the eternal שבת is like.

סידור של שבת

But there is another source for discovering and enhancing our taste of שבת. That source is the סידור של שבת. The תפילות are designed to give us a glimpse into the depth of what שבת is meant to give us.

The סידור של שבת has been studied and analyzed by some of the greatest תורה thinkers, both literal and Kabalistic. You will get an enhanced appreciation for קדושת שבת by opening your heart and mind to the explanations being offered.

The קדושת ציון of Bobov

The קדושת ציון of Bobov (the second Bobover Rebbe, R' Ben Zion Halberstam, זצ"ל, הי"ד) asks how did the Jews fulfil the Mitzvah of צדקה וחסד during their sojourn in the מדבר? After all, everyone had food and clothing. Nobody lacked for anything under the עוני הכבוד.

The wealthy man was able to invite the poor man to his home to taste some of his מן.

He answers that a person who was wealthy back in מצרים would think of the delicacies that he enjoyed there and his מן would taste like those delights that he enjoyed. However, the poor folks had nothing to think of but bread. They thought of bread and their מן tasted like plain stale bread.

The wealthy man was able to invite the poor man to his home to taste some of his מן. In that way the poor man could get a taste of fine food and he could then, if he wished, have his מן taste that way.

A lesson in helping others taste the fine delicacies of שבת applies here as well.



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Discover the Joy
of Shabbos

Agudath Israel and Ki Heim Chayeinu

Our good friends at Agudath Israel, through the *כי הם חיינו* program have introduced *בדיבור אחד*, a vehicle to enable each of us to taste the flavor of the *תפילות* and imbibe the atmosphere of *שבת קודש* through the many insights contained in the *שבת של שבת*.

Throughout this program we will have an opportunity to engage in *זכו טועמיה חיים*, whereby we can learn about the exquisite tastes of *שבת* and the *שבת של שבת* and thereby take the flavors of *שבת* home with us to grace our experience of *שבת*.

Takeaway: I will try to dedicate a few minutes of my week to learning about the experience of תפילות של שבת and the שבת.