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Discover the Joy  
of Shabbos

## A Day of Delight

By Rav Paysach Krohn shlita (Shiur E13)

*On Shabbos we are meant to bring out the best in ourselves. A story can help us get there.*

### *The חסיד got delayed*

Our story begins with a חסיד who was en route to spend Shabbos with his Rebbe, R' Simcha Bunim of Peshischa (known as the Rebbe Reb Bunim 1765-1827. He was a disciple of the saintly Chozeh m'Lublin.). The Rebbe R' Bunim was known for his demand for authenticity and connecting with one's authentic feelings of service and devotion. The Rebbe's Shabbos was filled with profound joy – שמחה. Those who wished to see a living example of the words of the Zemer לישׂראל אורה ושמחה – this day (Shabbos) is for Klal Yisroel a day of light and joy – would come to Peshischa to share Shabbos with the Rebbe R' Bunim.

### *He did not make it to Peshischa*

Our חסיד, still en route to his Rebbe, was not known for his cheerful demeanor. In fact, quite the opposite was the case. It did not take much for him to feel, and often to show his disdain for whatever it was that did not go as he would have wished.

Try as he may, one delay led to another and our חסיד had to spend Shabbos in a town not far from, but not with, the Rebbe R' Bunim in Peshischa. One might imagine that the various delays did not make his day any brighter. Indeed, when he came to the Rebbe on Motzei Shabbos he vented his unhappiness that he was unable to spend Shabbos with the Rebbe.

### *The Rebbe explains why the חסיד did not arrive*

The Rebbe R' Bunim explained to the forlorn חסיד that his inability to make it to Peshischa was due to the intervention of Shabbos. Shabbos was unwilling to host him in Peshischa. And the Rebbe explained why.

### *Shabbos is a gracious host*

The Rebbe described the various ways that Shabbos steps aside and makes room for others. On Rosh Chodesh, Shabbos steps aside to make room for the special Mussaf of Rosh Chodesh.

On YomTov, Shabbos gives way and allows YomTov to take over the Laining and the Mussaf. Indeed, on Yom Kippur, Shabbos defers and allows even the meals to be set aside in favor of the fasting on Yom Kippur. What a host!

### *The exception*

The only exception to the gracious hosting the Shabbos affords to those who come is when Tish'a B'Av comes knocking on its door. If sadness and grieving is at the door Shabbos insists that it wait until after Shabbos. Shabbos is only available for joy and light; it is not home for sadness and morose.

### *Now you understand*

And so, concluded the Rebbe, Shabbos did not let you come to Peshischa. The Rebbe encouraged the חסיד to work on his Middos and

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become a joyful person such that Shabbos will gladly let him in.

### ***Learning Mussar from the Challah***

Rav Abba Zalka Gewirtz זצ"ל was a close Talmid of R' Dovid Leibowitz זצ"ל, the founder of Yeshivas Rabeinu Yisroel Meir HaKohen, known popularly as the Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva (now located in Kew Gardens Hills, Queens). Rabbi Gewirtz reports a comment about human nature from his beloved Rebbe.

### ***The fellow gets irritated***

Imagine a fellow who comes home from Shul and notices that the Challah cover is sitting flat on the Challah tray. His wife has forgotten to bring out the Challahs.

[By way of background, we cover the Challahs because typically if one is going to eat bread and drink wine, then the order of Brochos is to recite בורא פרי הגפן first, and only then recite המוציא over the wine. Chazal instructed that Kiddush should ideally be recited over wine and they thereby 'passed over' the Challah and designated the wine as first. The Challah is Halachically 'unhappy' with this change of order and so the

***Takeaway: I will try to be on the lookout for anything that can help me reach the goal of joy and peace on Shabbos.***

custom is to cover the Challah such that it is 'not present' to witness its embarrassment when we override the rules of priority to recite Kiddush over wine.]

### ***How could you not bring the Challahs – think of the embarrassment!***

The fellow is irate and chastises his poor wife in front of the guests. How could she have neglected the Challahs?! What an embarrassment!

### ***Mussar from our Minhagim***

R' Dovid, who gained his approach to Mussar from his Rebbe, the Alter of Slabodka, pointed out the irony of the scene. Here, the custom to cover the Challahs is to avoid embarrassing the Challah while the husband in the story is embarrassing his wife, perhaps even in front of guests, over the oversight.

We are meant to internalize the message of our customs and use those messages to help with the hard work of enhancing our Middos. There is no simple shortcut, but a good story and a good thought that stays on our minds can provide a steady stream of Middos development.