



שִׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה / Simchas Torah

Dancing On Yom Tov

Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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Recap: After spending time in the Jerusalem Prison for trying to build the Beis Hamikdash in the middle of Rechov Shmuel Hanavi, the judge ordered Tzadok “Hatzadik” to be released in middle of the prison’s daytime Simchas Beis Hashoeiva, only for him to be immediately arrested for stealing seforim from the prison on his way out.

Rav Volender was still speaking to the prisoners as Tzadok “Hatzadik” was brought back in handcuffs to the prison sukkah.

“Tzadok, back so soon?” asked Rav Volender.

“Rebbe, I was just doing as you told us to do! You said that just like after Sukkot we need to take what we gained from the sukkah with us, so too, we must take the Torah we learned with us when we leave prison!”

“No, no, Tzadok, I didn’t mean to physically take things with you from prison. You need to take it with you in your mind!” - Turning to the guard he said, “Yigal, why don’t you undo Tzadok’s handcuffs. I think this was a misunderstanding. I’ll speak to the warden and make sure he doesn’t press charges.

“Tzadok, why don’t you join us for the rest of the Simchas Beis Hashoeiva and then I’ll personally escort you out of the prison.”



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The guard released Tzadok from his handcuffs and Tzadok gratefully took a seat in the sukkah and reached for a cookie.

After Tzadok made a ‘borei minei mezonos’ and a ‘leisheiv basukkah’, Rav Volender turned to Tzadok.

“Tzadok, I must say it’s nice to see you without your prison uniform on,” he said with a smile. “Maybe you’ll come back and visit me without getting arrested again?”

“I hope so,” said Tzadok. “This time I’m going to wait until I see Eliyahu Hanavi before trying to build the Beis Hamikdash again.”

“Why don’t you come by on Simchas Torah?” Rav Volender asked. “You can dance with us and join us for the Yom Tov seudah.”

“Oh, I love Simchas Torah!” Tzadok exclaimed. “You should see how I dance! Nobody stamps their feet like I do during Tzavei Yeshuos Yaakov!”

“Ah,” said Rav Volender. “And do you know why we dance so hard and stomp our feet on Simchas Torah?”

“Because it makes the song sound better,” Tzadok replied. And as if to demonstrate, he started singing “Tzavei! Tzavei! Tzavei-Tzavei!” stamping his feet on the floor of the sukkah.”

“Well, beautiful singing and dancing is important to Simchas Torah,” Rav Volender said. “But let me tell you what I heard from Rav Avigdor Miller Zt”l. You know how we talked about the need to take the sukkah with us after Yom Tov is over? Do you know how we do that?”

“Well, to take the whole sukkah is hard. Maybe if I had a donkey like Bilaam I could do it” Tzadok said doubtfully. “I can definitely take some of the schach

with me though,” he added generously. “I’ll hang it on my ceiling so I have the segulah of the sukkah the whole year long.”

“No, no, Tzadok,” Rav Volender said. “Remember what I said about taking things with us in our mind?”

“Oh yeah,” Tzadok mumbled, rubbing his wrists where the handcuffs were a few minutes earlier.

“So Rav Miller explained that on Simchas Torah, as we sing and dance and stomp our feet, we need to be stomping the ideas of the sukkah into our mind. It’s the last chance before we go back to regular life. And each time we put our foot down while dancing, we need to be concentrating on the lessons that we learned on sukkos and think ‘I am putting these lessons into my mind so that I have them with me for the entire year!’”

Now Rav Volender started stomping his feet. “Tzavei! Tzavei! Tzavei-Tzavei!” he sang. “As we sing on Simchas Torah, we need to be focused, not just on the singing and dancing, but on the words that we are saying and on remembering that the sukkah is not just for sukkos, but something we must stomp into our minds so that continue to think about them all winter long!”

“Wow, Rebbe!” Tzadok said, his face shining. “I can’t wait to experience Simchas Torah in the way you just described. It sounds better than any segulah I ever thought of!”

Rav Volender looked at Tzadok with a smile. “Tzadok, I can’t wait to see you on Simchas Torah and we will sing and dance together, as we prepare our heads for the year ahead of us. Now come, let’s make a brocha acharonah and I will take you out of the prison and to freedom.”

Have A Wonderful Yom Tov!

Takeaway:

When we jump up and down on Simchas Torah, we should think about the words of the song and try to stamp those lessons into our head as strongly as possible.



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