

Lesson Eleven: Pride



“שלא להתבייש מפני בני אדם המלעיגים”

(שו"ע אדה"ז סימן א, ס"א)

“Do not be embarrassed in front of those who mock.”



The School Project

CHARACTERS: Mussia, Nechama, Chaya

Mussia: Chaya, thanks for letting us work on the Tznius project in your house! I hope we don't make your room a big mess.

Nechama: Yeah, these glitter pens, scrapbooking paper, and stickers are so shiny and bright. Thanks Hashem!

Chaya: It's okay. We'll clean up together.

Mussia: So, let's get to work. Does anyone have the paper with the instructions?

Nechama: Yes, I do. I'll read it out loud. 1) Choose a Tznius theme we learned about this year. 2) Make a big poster board to illustrate the concept. 3) Find a Rebbe letter or source for the concept, and glue it to the poster board.

Chaya: Okay. Let's pick a theme. What should we choose?

Mussia: Well, we could do it on Hilchos Tznius. But I think Leah and Esty's group chose that theme.

Chaya: Yeah, let's do something different. I know! We could talk about being proud.

Nechama: I love that idea! I'm already imagining what the poster board is going to look like... we can make a big trophy with that shiny gold paper. The trophy could say, "I'm Tznius and I'm Proud". Then we can decorate it with royal blue ribbon...

Mussia: Nechama, we'll leave it to you for the creative part! You're an artist, that's for sure. Just tell me what to cut and glue and I'm happy to help.

Chaya: And I'll go downstairs to ask my father for a Rebbe letter or source that talks about being proud of being Tznius. I'll be back in a few minutes.

Nechama: Okay. Mussia, would you be able to cut this gold paper into the shape of a trophy? Meanwhile, I'll use the glitter pens to write "I'm Tznius and I'm Proud!" on a mini banner.

Mussia: Sure! Wow, I'm so excited to present our theme. We've been learning so much about Tznius this year. I love that we are able to make our own project about what it means to us.

Nechama: Yes. Ever since we started learning about Tznius, I've been feeling so happy and special that I get to keep this Mitzva. But wait -- aren't we supposed to be humble?

Mussia: Yes, but do you remember what we learned about Shavuot time? The Torah was given on Har Sinai because it was a small and humble mountain. But if being humble is so important, shouldn't the Torah have been given someplace really low, like a valley?

Nechama: Oh! Yes, I remember the answer. The Torah was purposely given on a mountain and not in a valley so that we should remember to hold our heads up high and be proud of our Yiddishkeit.

Chaya: Hi, I'm back! Your conversation sounds really interesting.

Mussia: Oh, we were just talking about important it is to be proud of our Yiddishkeit. What did your father say? Did he find a source?

Chaya: Yup! It's right here. I made a photocopy from the book.

Nechama: Great! Can you read it out loud, please?

Chaya: Sure! The Rebbe says: *"It is high time for Jewish women and girls to show their Jewish pride, and free themselves of the fashions that surround them... In the Zechus of staying true to the standards of Tznius, may Hashem bentsch that the Brachos which the Torah promises be fulfilled."*

Mussia: Wow. That's so inspiring!

Chaya: Yes. The way my father explained it, it's like this: sticking to our standards of Tznius will not make us lose respect in the eyes of our non-Jewish neighbors. On the contrary, it will make them think even higher of us! Showing pride is the path that will lead us out of Galus.

Mussia: I like that! Thanks, Chaya.

Nechama: Yes, it's perfect! I'm sure our poster will be beautiful, but if we don't get the highest mark that's okay. We have a deeper understanding of Tznius, the most beautiful Mitzva of all!