

Lesson Five: Beauty



“וְעָשִׂיתָ בְּגָדֵי קֹדֶשׁ... לְכָבוֹד וּלְתִפְאֳרָתָ”

(תצוה כח, ב)

“And you shall make holy clothing... for honor and for glory.”



The Menorah

CHARACTERS: Tatty, Baila, Shterna

Tatty: Girls, I am going shopping for a Menorah. Would you like to come along with me?

Shterna: Yes!

Baila: I'll come too! Which store are we going to?

Tatty: Bezras Hashem We are going to Silver's Judaica. It's right around the corner.

Baila: Okay! That sounds exciting.

Shterna: Why are we buying a new Menorah? We have one already.

Tatty: Good question. I'll let you try to answer that.

Shterna: I don't know the answer!

Baila: Me neither.

Tatty: I'll give you a hint. It has something to do with beauty.

Shterna: Beauty? I'm so confused!

Tatty: Look, we're already at the store. Let's go check out their collection of Menorahs and I have a feeling your question will be answered when you see what they have.

Baila: WOW! Tatty, look through the window! Do you see that gorgeous Menorah?

Shterna: I want to see it closer up! Let's go inside.

Tatty: Yes, let's not get stuck by the window! Come in.

Shterna: Oh, there it is! Wait -- I'm getting distracted. There's an even more beautiful Menorah next to it!

Baila: This one over here is stunning. It's engraved with flowers and vines twisting all around. Is this real silver?

Tatty: Yes, it is.

Shterna: Yeah, they're really beautiful. I can see why we are buying a new Menorah. Ours at home isn't as nice as these ones.

Baila: I know! But wait a minute, check out these price tags! They're all so expensive! Tatty, are you sure we're buying such a fancy Menorah?

Tatty: Of course. That's the plan. Baruch Hashem, this year we can afford it, so I decided it's time to upgrade to something really magnificent.

Shterna: Why can't we just use our old Menorah?

Tatty: Good question! Well, I'll answer with a question. What's a Yid's mission in this world?

Shterna: To serve Hashem by learning Torah and doing Mitzvos.

Tatty: Exactly. So when we use the very best materials to serve Hashem, we are showing how much we care about fulfilling His Mitzvos.

Baila: Oh! I get it. That's why you always buy a really nice Esrog every year.

Tatty: You got it! We want to show Hashem how much we love Yiddishkeit. We do Mitzvos with great joy and excitement. It's called "Hiddur Mitzva". That's also why we take on extra Chumros and keep special Minhagim. It's our way of offering Hashem our very best when it comes to doing Mitzvos!

Shterna: That makes sense. It's also like that with Tznius. Now I understand why there are so many sensitivities when it comes to colors, length, and style.

Tatty: Yes. Halacha is basic, and is the same for everyone. But when it comes to Hiddur Mitzva, there is no limit. Besides for bringing pleasure to Hashem, we are inspiring others by showing how important Yiddishkeit is to us. Mitzvos can be personalized! That's why I'm so excited to buy a new Menorah.

Baila: I'm already inspired! I'm going to ask my counselor if she has any ideas of a Hachlata for a Chumra I can take on in Tznius. I want to make my Mitzva beautiful too!