

DISCOVERING LIFE'S TREASURES

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Transform your day with one small thought!

It was a week before Pesach and excitement was in the air. Eliyahu was walking home after Shacharis when he suddenly noticed his friend Dovid walking towards him. After exchanging greetings, Eliyahu said, "Dovid, are you prepared for Pesach?" "Of course," Dovid responded. "I've got my wine and matzah and the house is getting clean, so I guess I'm about ready."

"That's great," said Eliyahu, "but are you ready to take advantage of all the mitzvah opportunities of Pesach?"

"You mean the well-known mitzvos of achilas matzah, sipur yetzias mitzrayim and the many mitzvos d'rabanan at the seder?" asked Dovid.

"No," said Eliyahu "There are actually far more mitzvos which a person can fulfill on Pesach and many people are not aware of them! In fact, last night Rav Friedman gave a shiur and said that with kavana, one can fulfill many mitzvos d'oraysa throughout the entire Pesach. A person can even transform regular actions that he is doing anyways into full-fledged mitzvos and acquire eternity for himself!"

"Really!" said Dovid interestedly, "Can you give me some examples?"

"Sure," said Eliyahu. "Rav Friedman said that according to the Gr"a, one can fulfill the mitzvah of achilas matzah every time he eats a kezayis of matzah throughout the entire Pesach! Every time! Including chol hamoed! All that's necessary is to have in mind, "I'm eating this matzah as Hashem commanded" when eating it! Isn't that amazing? All the matzah I'll be eating throughout Pesach will be a mitzvah – not just at the seder!"

Eliyahu's excitement was infectious. Dovid was getting excited too. This was something he had never heard about before!

Eliyahu wasn't finished. "There's more, Dovid! Rav Friedman even said that taking your family on a Chol Hamoed trip could be a mitzvah!"

"Really!" said Dovid. "Going on a trip? That's a mitzvah?!"

"Of course!" exclaimed Eliyahu. "It's actually two mitzvos! It's the mitzvah of v'samachta b'chagecha, making your family happy on Yom Tov and also the mitzvah of chesed to your children! Before leaving your house, just think, "I'm fulfilling the mitzvah of v'samachta b'chagecha and the mitzvah of chesed, ka'asher tziva Hashem, and then you will get two precious mitzvos just for going on a fun trip!"

"Amazing" said Dovid, who looked quite happy to hear this. "Taking my family on trips was always something maybe uh... a little challenging. But now that you're saying I can fulfill two mitzvos d'oraysa, I think I'm actually looking forward to it! Tell me Eliyahu, did Rav Friedman speak of any other mitzvos?"

"Of course!" Eliyahu said. "Rav Friedman spoke about some of the mitzvos that apply to both Shabbos and Yom

Tov, such as 'Kovod Yom Tov' (or Shabbos) which refers to all the preparations – such as cleaning the house, setting the table, and preparing all the delicious foods. Be sure to tell your wife to have in mind during her preparations that she is doing it all 'ka'asher tziva Hashem. In this way she will have earned for herself many incredible mitzvos! And the Mishna Berurah writes that if one speaks out the kavana, it adds kedusha to the mitzvah!

"Then there is the mitzvah of Tosefes Yom Tov - adding to Yom Tov - accepting Pesach a few minutes early and delaying the end of Yom Tov afterwards. Of course, there is also the mitzvah of Sh'visas Yom Tov – the mitzvah to refrain from doing melacha on Yom Tov. For both of these mitzvos one should think beforehand, "I'm doing this mitzvah as Hashem commanded."

"Wow!" said Dovid. "This is amazing! I'm really excited for Pesach now! And I can't wait to share all this with my wife and family. They will appreciate it for sure! Thank you so much!"

