

Laws & Customs

Why do we dip Challah Bread into Salt?

In this week's Parshah we read how Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt. The Midrash says that when Lot brought home guests he prepared a meal for them and asked his wife to bring some salt. There was no salt in the house and she would need to borrow from a neighbor. He warned her not to reveal the reason for the salt, as it was forbidden to have guests in Sodom. She did just the opposite. She went around asking for salt and told of Lot's guest. When Sodom was overturned she looked back at the destroyed city when she was not supposed to and turned into a pillar of salt.

Bread should always be dipped in salt, not just on Shabbat.

1) Our table is considered an altar, and in the Holy Temple salt was offered together with every sacrifice

2) Salt never spoils or decays, therefore, it is symbolic of our eternal covenant with G-d. That is why the Torah (Numbers 18:19) refers to it as "the salt of your G-d's covenant."

3) Salt adds taste to everything. This teaches us that our bond/covenant with G-d should bring taste and flavor to every aspect of our life.



י"ד - ט"ו מר חשוון
October 22-23 2010
Candle Lighting
18:26
Shabbat Ends
19:19

**In honor of the
Alouf Family**

Laughing on the Future

When Sarah, our Matriarch, gave birth to a Itzchak at the age of 90, she exclaimed that she had become a source of laughter. For who would believe that a lady aging 90 would have a child with a man of 100. We too would disbelief and laugh at the notion of our grandparents having a child today.

Amongst some, this type of laughter still exists today. They say, "That there are principles and practices in Judaism that seem old-fashioned and outdated for today's modern world. And they laugh at the idea of one trying to raise a child with the hope that the child will continue with the old traditions. Do you really think that your children will pray to G-d as Abraham did every day? Do you really think your daughters will remain pure in an immoral environment, like Sarah did in Egypt?"

Yet, history has shown that if we educate our children uncompromisingly, the way Abraham and Sarah educated theirs, we, too will be able to have offspring like Itzchak, completely dedicated to our ideals.

It is never too late. However distant, our children may be we can never underestimate the effect of a small exposure to Torah-true Judaism on their lives. Let us make the effort to keep our traditions as we too are G-d's children.

Two Eyes

Story of Reb Yosef:

When I was four years old, I asked my father: "Why did G-d make people with two eyes? Why not with one eye, just as we have been given a single nose and a single mouth?"

"Do you know the Alef-Beis?" asked father. "Yes", I replied.

"Then you know that there are two very similar Hebrew letters, the Shin and the Sin. Can you tell the difference between them?"

"The Shin has a dot on its right side, the Sin on its left," I answered.

"Well done", exclaimed father. "From this we learn that there are things which one must look upon with his right eye, with affection and empathy, and there are things which are to be looked upon with the left eye, with indifference and detachment."

"Upon a Siddur or on another Jew, one should look with the right eye. Upon a candy or toy, one should look with the left eye."

Quotable Quote

"Words which come from the heart, enter the heart."

-Our Sages