



DO MUDDY SHOES BELONG ON A CARPET LIKE THIS?!

פרק א, משנה ד

יוסי בן יועזר איש צרדה ויוסי בן יוחנן איש ירושלים קבלו מהם. יוסי בן יועזר איש צרדה אומר, יהי ביתך בית ועד לחכמים, והוי מתאבק בעפר רגליהם, והוי שותה בצמא את דבריהם

יוסי בן יועזר, a leader of the city of צרדה and יוסי בן יוחנן, a leader of the city of ירושלים received from them. יוסי בן יועזר איש צרדה says, Let your house be a meeting place for חכמים; You should become dusty in the dust of their feet; and, You should drink their words thirstily.

Why is it important to have תלמידי חכמים gather in our homes?

How can we make our homes a place where תלמידי חכמים feel comfortable gathering?

STORY: There was a man in Russia who supported תלמידי חכמים as well as several ישיבות. His name was R' Yitzchak. A story is told about him, which illustrates his special approach to the chinuch, the Torah education, he invested in his daughters.

One winter day in Russia, the great tzaddik, **Rav Elchonon Wasserman** (1874-1941), the Rosh haYeshiva of Baranovitch, came to the home of R' Yitzchak in order to raise money for his yeshiva. However, since his boots were wet and muddy from the melting snow, when he arrived, Rav Elchonon knocked on the back door to avoid tracking mud inside the house.

When R' Yitzchak saw that R' Elchonon had entered the house through the kitchen, he became very agitated and upset. He said, "Please! No! You're ruining the chinuch (education) of my daughters! All the chinuch that I invested in my daughters all these years will be lost in just one moment!"

Rav Elchonon responded in surprise, "What do you mean?"

What am I doing to ruin your daughters' chinuch?!"

R' Yitzchak answered in a pained voice. "For years, I've tried to emphasize to my daughters that all the wealth in the world is not worth anything without Torah. And now a Rosh Yeshiva enters my house and my daughters see exactly the opposite - as if the beauty of the house is worth more than kavod HaTorah (honor for Torah)!"

Then, R' Yitzchak insisted that Rav Elchonon accompany him through the front entrance to the beautifully furnished living room, and seated him on a fancy chair, which was soon stained with mud from Rav Elchonon's boots. R' Yitzchak then finally felt at ease and gave Rav Elchonon a generous contribution for his yeshiva.

R' Yitzchok merited that both of his daughters were married to outstanding Torah scholars. He was very proud of his sons-in-laws and let everyone know that they were his true riches.

This man was someone who literally lived the words of this משנה!

