

# Kol Yisrael SKIT

Characters: Mother, Father, R' Yaakov Galinsky zt"l, Mashgiach, Torah Scholar/Steipler Gaon zt"l, 2 Narrators

*Skit adapted with permission from book, "Along the Maggid's Journey," by Rabbi Paysach J. Krohn, by Artscroll publishers*

Mother: Oy, I'm really concerned about about our Yanke'le. He just can't sit still for one minute! His Rebbeim are losing patience with him. He's not being successful in yeshiva! Oy! What's going to be with his future in Torah? I daven so much for him! I cry torrents of tears for him! I know he has such incredible potential for greatness, but he's just wasting his time away! Oy! What can we do to help our child taste the sweetness of Torah? To grow in his Yiras Shomayim??

Father: Yes, I have been distressed over this as well. Hm... I think I may have an idea. We'll send him off to Yeshivas Novoradok in Bialystok, Poland. There, there is no joking around! Maybe in the serious atmosphere, steeped in Mussar, character refinement, he'll buckle down and make a Torah mentch out of himself.

Mother: What is Mussar? What is so special about the Yeshiva in Novaradok? Bialystok is quite a distance from here!

Father: Well you see, each of us have character traits that could use improvement. Mussar is the application of character refinement and discipline. It's about working on oneself to behave with the proper middot in every situation so that we can serve Hashem in the most ideal way. Mussar enables us to experience life as upright Torah Jews...

Mother: Well then... I suppose we have no choice! I'll miss him terribly, but I'm willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of our Yaakov's success. Hopefully, one day, he'll bring us some Yiddishe nachat...

**Sound effects of train pulling in, boy walking.**

Narrator #1: After traveling by train to the yeshiva, which was in the city of Bialystok, in the country of Poland, Yaakov confidently went over to the Mashgiach, the spiritual guide of the institution...

Yaakov: Mashgiach, my father has sent me to learn in your yeshiva!

Mashgiach: I'm sorry, but this is not the way that someone comes to learn here. There is a procedure! First, you must learn some mussar, and only then can you come back and ask to be admitted here.

Yaakov: Oh, alright... Uh, where do you recommend I learn mussar?

Mashgiach: Down the block - there is a shul. Go in there, take a mussar sefer, and learn for a while. Then, come back here and we'll talk!

Narrator #1 speaks while characters act out the following scenario:

It was already night, and there were not many people outside as the boy walked alone down the block, searching for the shul. On the corner, he noticed a small entryway. He walked through it but it was black inside. There was no light, and he could hardly see where he was walking!

Yaakov pauses for a moment - and then he hears a voice!

Torah Scholar in melodious voice: **אמר ליה שמואל לרב יהודה שינבא חטוף...**

**"ואכול חטוף ואישתי, דעלמא דאזלינן מיניה כהלולא דמי"**

Shmuel said to Rav Yehuda... Grab and eat, grab and eat, grab, grab, grab and drink... Because this world, from which we will all depart - is like a wedding hall..."

Narrator #2: The young man in the front of the shul was singing this Gemara as though he was begging, imploring his physical being to accept what his Neshama knew to be truth! Sometimes we KNOW something intellectually, but it takes us time to internalize the message and make it real and part of ourselves!

... This world is like a quick wedding, it doesn't last forever; we are lucky to have a brief opportunity in the short amount of time we're given on this earth... let us all take advantage and grab mitzvot, daven, do acts of chessed, and learn our precious Torah while we can!

Yaakov to Mashgiach: (very politely), "I'm ready. I think I heard the mussar I was supposed to hear."

Mashgiach: Well, then you are welcome to come and learn here. Come, find your place.

Yaakov takes a seat and begins to learn diligently.

Narrator #2: R' Yaakov Galinsky was accepted into the yeshiva and became one of the outstanding and distinguished students of Novaradok!

Narrators: *And who was the man who had sat and recited that Chazal over and over?*

*Who had such a powerful influence on the youngster in the back of the darkened shul?*

### **Hold up picture of Steipler Gaon zt"l**

It was R' Yaakov Yisroel Kanievsky, a world renowned Torah giant who lived from 1899 until 1985 and was famously known as the Steipler Gaon, the father of R' Chaim Kanievsky, also a great tzaddik and Torah leader of today's generation.

End with parents thanking Hashem for the nachat they are having from their Yaakov. "Hodu LaHashem ki tov ki l'Olam chasdo!" Thank you Hashem, forever is Your kindness!