

There is a *segulah* from the Kozhnitzer *Maggid* to recite three well-known stories (reproduced below) related to *Pesach*, (usually on the *Shabbos* when we bless the new month of *Nissan*). The *segulah* is that the stories will bless the Jewish people with an abundance of provisions and necessities for the upcoming *Pesach*.

Three Stories that are a *Segulah* for *Parnasa* for *Pesach*

1) A certain Jew was selling brandy before *Pesach*, to provide for the upcoming holiday expenses. He went from country to country, but at one border, the guards seized his barrel, since he lacked the proper licenses. The Jew quickly traveled to the Rebbe Reb Meilech and poured out his heart. The Rebbe Reb Meilech told him to tell the guards to taste the contents of the barrel; it was only water. The Jew did as the Rebbe had told him. They were surprised to find that the Jew was telling the truth! They returned the barrel to him, but then he went back to the Rebbe, crying: "Now how can I provide for my family for the holiday? The barrel of brandy was my only way of earning a livelihood and now it's full of water!" The Rebbe Reb Meilech told him to taste the contents of the barrel. To his delight, it was full of brandy once again! And the Jew had all the necessities for *Pesach* in abundance!

2) A king lost his ring. He proclaimed that he would pay a handsome salary to everyone who searched for it. There was a poor Jew who had no money for *Pesach*. His wife advised him to take up the king's offer. So he joined in the search, and with the money he earned, he bought all the necessities for *Pesach*. This Jew was also a generous fellow; he invited many guests for the *seder* that year.

Among the king's advisors was a wicked anti-Semite. On the *seder* night he went to the Jew's home and peeked in through the window. When he saw the Jew eating and drinking and not searching for the king's ring, he saw his chance. He quickly went back to the palace. "Your Majesty," he said. "You've been fooled.

I'll show you!" The king followed his advisor to the house of the poor Jew, and peered in the window. There was the Jew at a table full of guests, eating and drinking like a king! Still, the king was loath to think ill will of his Jewish subject. He told the advisor, "This Jew is probably interrogating these men to see if they know the ring's whereabouts."

This Jew's custom was that at "*Dayenu*," he would recite each verse and all the guests would respond, "*Dayenu*." It so happened that the advisor's name was none other than *Dayenu*. Just then, they all answered in chorus "*Dayenu*!" The king's advisor paled.

The king understood this to mean that his trusted advisor had in fact stolen the ring. He commanded his royal guards to seize the advisor and jail him, and he confessed to the crime. And the Jew had all the necessities for *Pesach* in abundance!

3) There was a certain Jew who worked hard for his landlord, the *poritz*. One day, the *poritz* said, "It's lucky for you that I support you. Otherwise, you would starve!" In his simple faith, the Jew answered, "What are you saying? There's a G-d in Heaven and He provides for all His creatures. If the *poritz* won't serve as G-d's agent, G-d will find me another."

The *poritz* angrily banished the Jew from his property. This occurred right before *Pesach*. This poor Jew now had no money to buy the necessary provisions. The *poritz* had a huge treasury where he kept all his gold. He would go in from time to time to count and polish his coins. He would spit on each coin and then polish it till it shone. The *poritz*' pet monkey would go with the *poritz* into the treasury and watch him. He saw his master put the coins close to his mouth; he thought that the *poritz* was eating the coins! Monkey see, monkey do. The monkey copied his master. It stole alone into the treasury and feasted on the gold coins. The monkey ate so many coins that it died.

When the *poritz* came into his treasury and saw the dead monkey, he didn't realize the cause of its death. His anger had not abated, and he commanded his servant to throw the monkey into the Jew's house, to teach him a lesson. "If I don't provide for him, no one will!" The servant threw the monkey in through the window. When it landed, its stomach burst and all the gold coins came pouring out. Then the Jew was able to buy an abundance of provisions for *Pesach*.

On the *seder* night, the *poritz* sent his servant to see how the Jew was suffering without food. But the servant reported that the Jew's house was full of food and drink. The *poritz* later sent for the Jew and asked him from where he'd had money. The Jew told the *poritz* how someone had thrown a dead monkey into his house and that hundreds of gold coins had burst from it. The *poritz* then admitted, "Now I truly see that it's *Hashem* Who provides for us all." And the Jew had all the necessities for *Pesach* in abundance!

May you all be blessed with abundant resources for a *Freilicha* and *Kosher Pesach*. May your tables abound with guests who enlighten your *seder* with gems of *Torah*, May you and your children and your children's children not know from want all of your days, May your *seder* table be blessed with the visible revelation of *Eliyahu HaNavi* in preparation for the coming of *Melech Moshiach*, Amen.