

Midsville *kollel*. Tante Rivka teaches classes about Judaism* for women and heads seven *gemachs*. Both of them* were always thinking of new *kiruv* ideas and busy making plans for the next holiday's activities. Before Rosh Hashana, we all spent hours and hours preparing baskets with honey, honey cake, and other holiday treats.* On Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, Chaya, Miriam, and I took turns* babysitting children who came to shul with their parents. Before Sukkos, the whole family planned and organized a big *Chol Hamoed* event* for all the Jewish families in the town.



I also had a lot of pressure* from school. As the principal's niece (especially as someone who had come from Monsey to Midsville!), I felt that I really needed to be a good student and prove* myself. But it was *hard* to always listen in class and do all

*Judaism = יהדות

*treats = מעדנים

*event = אירוע

*prove = להוכיח

*Both of them = שניהם

*took turns = עשינו תורנות

*pressure = לחץ, מתח

my homework and study for tests, especially because I wasn't used to working hard in school at all. There were times when I just wanted to relax in the afternoon after school or daydream in the middle of a lesson, but I was afraid to embarrass* my uncle.

One day, I asked Chaya if she was ever tired of* being the rabbi's and principal's daughter and having to do so many different things as a result.* She laughed and said, "Look, you know that I like school and love being part of my parents' activities, but yes, sometimes it's too much for me and I just want to be a normal teenager. Last year, when Yehuda was born* and I had to help a lot at home, I couldn't do everything, although I tried very hard. One day, I was so tired of everything that I decided to stop studying and doing homework, and I started getting 20s and 30s on all my tests. It took a long time for me to realize that even the rabbi's and principal's daughter doesn't have to be perfect at everything. That's when my parents hired* someone to help them with the children in the afternoon and when I stopped trying to always get 100 in every subject."

I couldn't believe it. Perfect Chaya wasn't really perfect? But when I thought about it, I realized that she could be relaxed, too, and didn't always take things so seriously.

*to embarrass = לבייש

*result = תוצאה

*hired = התחילו להעסיק

*was ever tired of = אי פעם נמאס לה

*was born = נולד