

☆ The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

A FEW FATHER'S DAY STORIES

by

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Dovid Kaplan (“Impact! 230 Short Stories with an Immediate Message”), tells this touching story:

“When I was young, my father took me out to teach me how to drive a stick shift. Somehow I couldn’t get the hang of using a clutch. After about a half-hour of futility, I said ‘Dad, I just can’t do it. I’ll just have to drive the automatic.’

My father knew exactly which button to push. ‘All right, but you know Mom learned how to do it.’

Within five minutes, I was the best stick-shift driver in the city.”

Al Roker, one of the “best-loved weatherman in the world, has two daughters. He is a modern father, and in his book, “Don’t Make Me Stop This Car,” he takes an affectionate look at the joys and perils of fatherhood.

Up until page 118, Roker avoided using those dad-isms. However, after driving his daughter and two of her cousins down to Six Flags Great Adventure in central New Jersey, he used six little words that he had heard his father, Al Roker Sr. say:

DON'T MAKE ME STOP THIS CAR!

[reminiscing about his childhood--"kindhayt"]

He says, "...that statement would quiet us down for a period of ten to twenty minutes, depending on how loudly he said it. But you put six kids in a 1967 Ford Country Squire station wagon, and all hell is gonna break loose eventually...This thing was the size of a boat with fake wood trim on the sides...

After getting us to pipe down for a while, we would get nuts again. 'You're on my side.' 'No, I'm not.' 'Are too.' 'Am not.' 'Mom, he's looking at me funny.' 'Am not.' 'Are too.' Finally, my father would explode. "THAT'S IT! I DON'T CARE WHO DID WHAT. I'M REACHIN' BACK THERE AND I'M HITTIN' SOMEBODY!!!"

Fast forward to 2014, and we read the headline:

Australian Fathers' Long Hours Affect Sons More than Daughters.

Yes, a recent study showed that fathers' extremely long working hours can be detrimental to their sons' wellbeing. Researchers looked at the breakdown of father-child interaction by gender: Boys whose fathers worked fewer than 55 hours a week acted out less, compared to boys whose fathers worked longer hours. No such significant difference was found for girls.

Jianghong Li, one of the study authors, said, "Possibly, the link between fathers' long work hours and sons' behaviors might be even stronger because children from lower socioeconomic

status may be DOUBLY DISADVANTAGED by a lack of adequate parental time when parents work long hours, [at] low income, and [with the] stress associated with low quality jobs.”

Another possible reason for behavioral problems in boys? The play time typical in father-son relationships that help release boys' high energy levels or aggressive behaviors is missing.

Li, says that she would expect similar (“enlekh”) results for American (“amerikanish”) families. She said “Combined with the greater share of U. S. mothers with young (“yung”) children who work outside the home, U. S. fathers' very long work hours may have even a stronger negative impact on children.”

And now for a very touching Father's Day story:

A man came home from work late, tired (“farmatert”) and irritated, to find his 10-year-old son (“zun”) waiting for him at the door

SON: “Daddy, may I ask you a question?”

DAD: “Yeah, sure, what is it?”

SON: “Daddy, how much do you make an hour?”

DAD: “That's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?”

SON: “I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?”

DAD: “If you must know, I make \$100 an hour.”

SON: “Daddy, may I please borrow \$50?”

The father was furious (“oyfgekokht”).

DAD: “If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish (“egoistish”). I work hard everyday for such childish behavior.”

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy’s questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think: Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$50, and he really didn’t ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy’s room and opened the door.

DAD: “Are you asleep, son?”

SON: “No, daddy, I’m awake.”

DAD: “I’ve been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It has been a long day and I took out my aggravation on you. Here’s the \$50 you asked for.” The little boy sat straight up, smiling.

SON: “Oh, thank you (“a dank”), daddy!”

Then, reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some crumpled up bills.

The man saw that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, and

then looked up at his father.

DAD: “Why do you want more money if you already have some?”

SON: “Because I didn’t have enough, but now I do. Daddy, I have \$100 now. CAN I BUY AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME? PLEASE COME HOME EARLY TOMORROW. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH YOU.”

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness (“mekhile”).

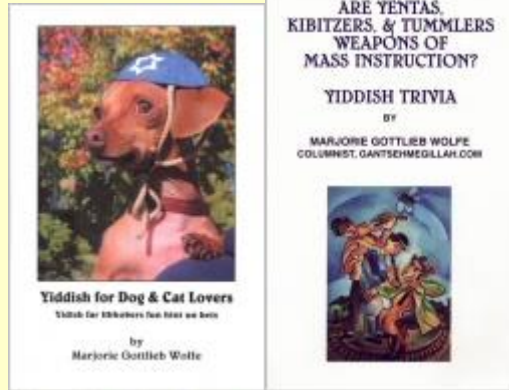
It’s just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life. We should not let time slip through our finger without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our heart (“harts”).

Do remember to share that \$100 worth of your time with someone you love.

Source: Unknown

MARJORIE GOTTLIEB WOLFE wishes all of her readers a “Happy Father’s Day.” And to her three sons--Matthew, Jonathan, and Daniel-- she wishes to compliment them: “You’re doing a “vunderlekh” (marvelous) job raising your children.”

**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of
two books:**



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction?
Yiddish
Trivia." To order a copy, go to her
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