

## Succot 5776

### The Value of a Mitzvah

Ushpizin is the name of the spiritual guests we invite in our Sukkot but it is also a name of a great movie made in Israel.

The film begins with the Arbaah Minim market place in Yerushalayim. Moshe the hero of the story, wants to buy an Etrog for Sukkot- and he's led into the room where they are sold, he sees in front of him the diamond of all Etrogim- The jewel of the crown – and he desires this Etrog for the Chag.

However, Moshe sits studying Torah all day long and on their meagre existence cannot afford it. Through an interesting chain of events, they receive a sum of money, enough to sustain them for Sukkot. The first thing Moshe does is he goes to the market to buy his Etrog- and what joy he experiences to have this beautiful Etrog to fulfil the mitzvah.

Looking from the outside in, you think to yourself maybe Moshe's a meshugana; He has to look after the needs of the house and he's spending money on let's face it- a glorified lemon. Is there a basis to his behaviour whereas money is used disproportionately for the sake of a mitzvah?

The Talmud in Sukkah tells the story Rabbi Gamliel, and four other Rabbis who were travelling on a ship together during Sukkot.

The only person who had the Arba Minim was Rabbi Gamliel who had purchased his set for 1000 zuzim.

Each of the Rabbis in turn used the Arba Minim of Rabbi Gamliel. The Talmud asks why tell us that his set was purchased for 1000 zuzim, an astronomical price. To teach us how mitzvot are valued by our Torah leaders. Rabban Gamliel was a wealthy man, but even for Rabban Gamliel 1000 zuzim was a lot of money- but he was ready to pay the price to do the mitzvah. The message is - Rabbi Yochanan says in Pirkei Avot- run to fulfil even a light precept because you do not know the reward for a mitzvah.

But don't ask me what happened to Moshe's Etrog!