

PURIM-SHPIL, MINYAN M'AT 1990
GOOD MORNING, PERSIA!

Players: Howard Eisenberg, Miriam Hoffman, David Kronfeld, Fred Bogin, David Fishman, Shana Novick, Ellen Resnick, Dovid Roskies

ED McMOREDECAI: The morning program watched by more Persians than you can shake a gragger at...the most-honored show this side of the Tigris-Euphrates, which last year won 4 Ahasueruses, 2 Vashtis and 1 Homentash... Good morning , Persia!

(Holds up an applause card.)

I'm your announcer, Ed McMordecai. I'm happy to welcome you this morning. And before I introduce out talk show hostess, Queen Esther, I just want to remind you all to be checking your mail-boxes for the Family Sweepstakes offer...THE ONLY ONE WITH MY PICTURE ON IT...that gives you a chance to win 10 million zuzim and to be Queen Vashti Foa a Day. But now...the woman you've all been waiting for...the royal beauty contest winner and talk hostess with the mostest...Queen Esther!!!

ENTER ESTHER (Alarmingly pregnant and groaning OY VEY at every step. Enters from behind curtain stage left.)

McMORDECAI holds up applause card again.

ESTHER: Oh thank you, thank you, loyal subjects. And now, loyal subjects, this morning's show. As those of you who faithfully watch our promos know, today's subject is...RAISING YOUR JEWISH CHILD... We have a lot of wonderful guests and without further ado, we'll introduce two of our guest experts right now.

(Pauses, quivers as she feels a birth pang.) Oh, the pains!
(Pauses and says bravely) But the show must go on...First our own DARLENE WEISSENBERG, who has just sold the one billionth copy of the definitive book on morning sickness, What to Expect When You're Expecting (pauses for laughs).

McMORDECAI: Now Heeere's Darlene! (Holds up applause card)

DARLENE (all smiles, sings to "Buttercup" from Mikado):

I'm Darlene Weissenberg
Sweet Darlene Weissenberg
A passion for babies I've got.
But then, why shouldn't it be?
They've been so good to me.

(Smiles and points to the Hudson)

Look...see out there? That's my yacht.

Childbirth is such a pain
You won't hear me complain!
I'm not the one being torn.
Girl child or boy, you see
I get my royalty
Each time a bay is born.

(Speaks loftily:) But of course my philosophy of child-rearing (as expressed in my other best-selling book, "What to Expect the First Hundred Years") is not at all influenced by filthy lucre. Soo... (SINGS)

Please don't misunderstand
 Infants are truly grand
 Even when regurgitating
 If one should wet your bed
 Sleep on the floor instead (warm smile)
 Mother love never abating.

Should colic spoil your night
 You have, of course, the right
 To beat your child, you know best.
 But I implore you, Mom
 Stifle that urge to harm (beatific smile)
 Instead offer Snookums your breast.

Watch as your draling grows
 And shatters your Limoges
 Your crystal, your Wedgewood, Arpeges
 Throttle that urge to kill
 When you're over the hill (knowing smile)
 Who'll care for you in old age?

ESTHER: Thank you, Darlene. I'm sure we'll all be better parents for having heard you...And, by the way, I love your fright wig!

Now, a gentleman whose child-rearing philosophy is the very antithesis of the lovely Darlene's...Dr. BENJAMIN SPANK who has just published the 20th completely revised edition of his classic BABY AND CHILD SCARE. Once famous for his advice to spare the rod, he has since seen the error of his ways...

(Pauses in mid-thought as she is seized by another birth-pang.)

Oy, the pains are getting worse! Oy vey, oy vey. (Regains control) But...the show must go on. (with an effort) Dr. Spank, would you tell the folks about your nouveau parenting style?

McMORDECAI: (Holds up applause card) Heeeeere's BENJAMIN SPANK!!

SPANK: menacing character who speaks w/German accent; goes around ingratiating himself with children in the audience.

SPANK: (to "I Am the Monarch of the Sea"):

I am the expert of the age
 Among parents I'm the rage,
 My advice they heed, my words they revere
 They come to me from far and near
 For infants, adolescents and the post-pubescent
 Weaning, toilet training, even masturbating
 I'm heaven-sent!

CHORUS: For infants, adolescents...
He's heaven sent!

SPANK: When a child acts ill-bred
And refuses to go to bed
Calls his mom dumb dummy and his dad a poop
Or shoots all the members of his pre-K group
It's time to set limits for the little brat
A few patches on his tukhes will eliminate the ruckus
I'm for that!

CHORUS: It's time to set limits...
He's for that!

SPANK: When your child's no delight
Throws sand, won't share, starts fights
Bites his friend so hard that it leaves a mark
Throws a tantrum in the middle of Riverside Park
It's time to set limits for the little brat, etc.

When your child starts to cry
As Hallel reaches a high
Pipes up in the middle of Kol Nidre:
"It's boring here, do we have to stay?"
It's time to set limits etc.

My philosophy is sound
For generations it's been found
If you spare the rod you will spoil the child.
Any lesser action is far too mild
So set firm limits for your little brat,
A few patches on his tukhes, etc.

CHORUS: (Repeats with high sing-off)

ESTHER: Thank you, Dr. Spank. We shall now ask into our television studio an average biblical family who are looking to our experts to help them with their particular childrearing concerns. So let's give a big welcome to ABRAHAM & SARAH who had their first child together when Sarah was 90 and her husband -- may no evil eye befall him -- was 100 years old!

ABRAHAM & SARAH sing a duet, alternating stanzas:

ABRAHAM Arthritis, angina, a poor memory
Are not what you'd expect in parents-to-be
But we've sure got emotional maturity
100 he un 90 she.

SARAH: Running after a toddler at 92
Is not what I ever expected to do
Think of planning a bar mitzva at 103
100 er un 90 zi.

SARAH: Good Cannanite sitters are hard to find
 Extended family is nice, but mine is dead or blind
 At least Avremele's home; he's retired, you see.
 100 er un 90 zi.

ABRAHAM We don't have much in common with the parents of his
 friends
 They talk careers and sex, they backpack on weekends
 If we do it once a month, then fortunate are we
 100 er un 90 zi.

SARAH: And so my parting words to all parents-to-be
 Finish having children by the time you're 53
 For to have one after 90 takes a miracle, you see
 100 er un 90 zi.

SARAH (with heavy Yiddish accent): So vat vee want to talk mit
 you about iz vat to do mit Isaac -- he don't want to eat, not
 kosher, not treyf.

DARLENE: When in doubt, pull it out!

DR. SPANK: He doesn't want to eat? He can always eat a knuckle
 sandwich.

ABRAHAM: End also vee have anoder problem. Not vit dis von but
 mit mine son from dee first marriage. (You know I have dis oder
 vife.) From dis son I have big tsores. He's a big boy already,
 a real "teenager."

SARAH: Vat teenager? He's a bum!

ENTER ISHMAEL (wearing menacing keffiyah and carrying a big rock
 as member of the Intifada):

ISHMAEL:

That little Yitskhok
 He's such a pip-squawk
 I'd like to get behind him
 With a pitchfork.
 Though I am older
 I get the cold shoulder
 This place has no room for him and me.

My father Abie
 He likes the baby,
 But as for me
 He thinks I'm just a maybe.
 I get so ticked off
 I'd like them picked off
 This place has no room for them and me.

I hate my brudda
 I hate my fadda
 I think I'll go start
 An intifada
 And if they hurt me
 I'll be a martyr
 This land has no room for Jew and me.

SARAH: So vat do vee do? You see vat I mean? He's a bum!

DR. SPANK: This is very interesting. It's a case of sibling rivalry compounded with adolescent rebellion in a blended family with a mixed marriage. My candid advice is to to get rid of Ishmael. Just send him into the desert. (Pause) Preferably across the Jordan.

DARLENE: I think you should try international mediation. I have a new book coming out on the subject with recipes for world peace.

ESTHER: Thank you, patriarchs and matriarchs, Darlene and Ben.

McMORDECAI lifts up APPLAUSE CARD. ALL EXIT.

McMORDECAI does a Commercial:

Are children crimping your davening? Come to "Pnei Or Spiritual Fitness Center" where our experts will show you ten easy ways to regain full spiritual spontaneity while keeping your child happy, too.

- a) how to burp the baby while jumping Kedushah
- b) how to nurse while doing hagbah (only for truly egalitarian minyanim!)
- c) and -- the famous Ira Silverstein Maneuver -- how to leyen with your mouth, rock one baby on your shoulder and wipe the other's nose with your left foot

ESTHER: (Interrupts to time a contraction)

Now, moving right along, the sexiesticlady on television has some suggestions on how to save the shattered remnants of your sex life after your child is born.

McMORDECAI: (holds up applause card) Now heeere's Dr.RUTHLESS.

RUTHLESS (enters wearing red fright wig)

Now, coming to us live by sattelite from their tent are one of Isaac's grown sons, Jacob, with the first of his four wives, Leah. They represent a growing phenomenon in this country, the very large blended family.

ENTER: JACOB & LEAH. Sing duet to "Sallah"

ESTHER: Thank you Darlene, Ben, and all our biblical parents. (THEY EXIT).

CHORUS: Oy, does trouble begin!

RUTHLESS: When the dear little thing starts to walk.

CHORUS (spoken clearly:) Nothing else can quite disrupt us

RUTHLESS: Like little bratus interruptus.
 So her's my advice when your little bugger
 Crawls into your bed
 Just when you're beginning to hug 'er.

CHORUS (spoken:) Heaven help, save and protect us

RUTHLESS: From little=bratus interruptus.
 So what can you do?
 I'll tell you what does it.
 Pick up the dear child
 And lock her in the closet.

CHORUS (to "Bring back, bring back:)
 Of course there are still
 Other things she could mention
 Chaining your brat in her crib
 Is still the best intervention.

CHORUS (spoken:) Thank you, doc, that will protect us
 From little bratus interruptus.

ESTHER (Sharp labor pains.)

Thank you, Dr. Ruthless. Now, coming to us for a live consultation are one of Isaac's grown sons, Jacob, with the first of his four wives, Leah.

ENTER: JACOB & LEAH.

Jacob: ...and I don't think she;'s the right one for us. She probably has no conception of our problem.

RUTHLESS: Conception? (sympathetically) So you're having a problem having a baby? I'm afraid I specialize in sex, not procreation.

LEAH: That's just what we want, sex without procreation.

JACOB: Now Leah, that's not true. We still don't have any girls.

LEAH: He wants more, let him get stretch marks.

RUTHLESS: So you're the infamous polygamous Jacob. (JACOB nods.) Tell me the story. How is it you married two wives anyway? You come from a small family!

ACOB: Well, I've always been into animal husbandry.

LEAH (proudly): Daddy says he's the best in the business.

Dr. R: 12 kids. How amazing. And you and your sister did this all by yourselves?

Leah: Well, we had some help from ... the help. It went like this:

(Sung to Sallah)

L:	In Anan Naharayim Manned two sisters	L:	Jacob the Patriarch and sought to leave a mark.
J:	Jacob and Leah How to fulfill his	L:	conferred, began to plan wish to have a clan.
J:	How many kids to have?	L:	When should we have them?
J:	How about 3 or 4?	L:	How should we staff them?
J:	How about 5 or 6?	L:	Who'll get up to feed them?
J:	How about 12 or more?	L:	He wants a sow to breed them!
J:	Be fruitful and multiply!	L:	He thinks he's so a macho guy!
J:	In Naharayim Manned his wives	L:	Jacob the Patriarch Then waited till it was dark
L:	Went to see Rachel Instead it was Leah -	L:	to fulfill his destiny Miss Fecundity
L:	First popped out Re'uven Shimon came after that	L:	such a bouncing baby followed soon by Levi
J:	"This is enough for now", instead came insanity,	L:	said Leah of her brood - In when she conceived Judah!
J:	Be fruitful and multiply!	L:	On this, we don't see eye to eye!
L:	In Naharayim Drafted 2 surrogates	L:	Jacob the Patriarch Recaptured the spark
J:	Fathered 12 boys, odds of But without a daughter,	L:	4000-plus-to-one felt he wasn't done!
L:	Yissachar, Z'vulun	L:	were all that I could whelp
J:	Gad, Acher, Naftali	L:	and Dan were the help's
J:	Yosef and Binjamin	L:	were Rachel's contribution
L:	Having one more would put me	L:	in an institution!
J:	Be fruitful and multiply!	L:	If I have another I will die!
J:	Be fruitful and multiply!	L:	If I have another I will die!

ESTHER: Thank you Dr. Ruthless and all our biblical parents.
(THEY EXIT).

ESTHER: These days Japan has been much in the news and so at considerable expense we brought over the leading Japanese expert on childrearing, Dr. BRUNO BETTLEHIAMISHA-SON. (ENTERS) What wisdom from the Orient can you share with us, Doc, on today's topic?

BRUNO sings to the the tune of "If You Want to Know Who We Are" from the Mikado.

If you want to raise a Jewish child
You must not raise him in Japan
They have no cheders there
They have no Jewish camps
He'd learn a lot of Oriental things
That's what living in that culture brings
He'll come to you with strange teachings
Oh! Oh!
No Jewish schools
No summer camps!

(Dances to percussion)

If you have a lovely little girl
And you think you would like to teach her
To become an eyshes khayil
Instead of becoming a geisha
You'll avoid such an incongruence
By providing a confluence
Of appropriate influence.
Oh! oh!
A confluence
Of influence.

If you think that my advice sounds strange
Then perhaps you should think again
It's logic is very deep
It comes from studying Zen.
But I never studied Kabbalah
And I never joined a havurah
Because I grew up in Osaka
Oh! Oh!
No havurah!
No Kabbalah!

(Bows to Esther and she to him. EXITS.)

MORDECAI: And now the moment you've all been waiting for, your favorite quiz show -- "Name that School" (formerly known as The Price Is Too High).

(Among the panelists might be Walter, Deborah & Howard B. Alan Mintz as substitute. Called up rishon, sheyni, shelishi. Each is instructed to use their gragger when they have the answer.)

ESTHER: Let me remind our contestants that whenever I have a birthpang, you get a bonus point.

1. Name the school that's being sued by its founder.
2. Which school's graduates have the highest rate of intermarriage?
3. Which school has highest per capita bar/mitsva expenses?
5. Which school has changed principals most often in past 3 yrs.?
6. Which school's graduates honor their fathers and mothers?
7. Name the school that just abolished corporal punishment.
8. What school in 1989 dispensed the most free valium to parents/students/ during College Acceptance Week.
9. What school charges the most for its annual dinner dance?
10. What school forbids negiyah at its annual " " ?
11. What school produced the most indicted/convicted Wall Street felons?
12. At what school can girls and boys learn Talmud together but not study trop?
13. What school teaches Hebrew w/Ashkenazi accent?
14. Which school's principal was caught smoking salmon?

Grand Prizes: Scholarship to Cardinal Spellman Junior High

ESTHER: Thank you, contestants. You may be seated.

Before we close this morning's show, some of our very own children would like to give you their perspective on the problem. So let's give a big hand to a group of Children from the Practicing Child Institute.

McMORDECAI holds up applause card.

FIRST CHILD (to "On Top of Old Smokey")

My abba's a nudnik
 My imma's a kvetch
 If they do not shape up
 I think I will retch.

SECOND: (to "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Abba's turn to cook this week, cook this week, cook this week
 Abba's turn to cook this week means macaroni and cheese.

THIRD: Twinkle, twinkle, Jewish star
 Mob and Pop are real bizarre.

FINALE (All sing to Adon Olam):

ESTHER: jumps up with powerful contraction. Oh, oh, oh! I think it's coming! I'm gonna beat Beverly Gribetz! (Rushes off stage)

DR. RUTHLESS:

Though my name's not Penelope Lecher
I can help if your baby's a kvetcher.

CHORUS: Her name's not Penelope Lecher
But she's grand if your baby's a kvetcher.

DR. RUTHLESS; To be sure that you won't have an ex-wife
CHORUS Here is how to enha-ance her sex life.

RUTHLESS: It's grand when your tyke starts to ta-alk
CHORUS; Yes it's grand when your tyke starts to ta-alk
RUTHLESS; But the trouble begins
CHORUS; Oy, does trouble begin!
RUTHLESS; When the dear little thing starts to walk.

CHORUS (HOWARD LEADING): Nothing else can quite disrupt us
Like little-bratus interruptus.

RUTHLESS; So here's my advice when your little lost sheep
Crawls into your bed just when you start to...

CHORUS (FASTILY): Bleep!
(ALTERNATE RHYME: your little pisser/start to kiss her...or
vonce/donse)

CHORUS; Heaven help, save, and protect us
From little-bratus interruptus.

RUTHLESS: So what can you do?
I'll tell you what does it.
Pick up the dear child
And lock her in the closet.

RUTHLESS: Of course, there are still
Other things I could mention
Chain your brat in her crib
That's the best intervention.

CHORUS; Thanks, Doc, that's sure to protect us
From little brat-us interruptus.

QUEEN ESTHER: (FEELS SHOOTING PAINS AGAIN, PLACES HANDS ON
STOMACH INVOLUNTARILY, BUT CONTINUES BRAVELY)
Thank you, Dr. Ruthless. I promise you, never again will a little
brat interrupt us ...(COYLY)...us being the King and I, of
course....And now, one final parenting authority. This gentleman
comes to us from the Far East: Dr. Hong Kong Wong. His subject:
"Raising a Jewish Child to Eat Gefuelte fish with Chopsticks."

ED MCMORDECHAI: Heeere's Dr. Hong Kong Wong.
APPLAUSE CARD IN JAPANESE

CLOSING SONG

KIDS (OR ADULTS DRESSED AS KIDS IF THE
SONG'S TOO TOUGH FOR THEM TO HANDLE):

(TUNE OF "ADON OLAM")

ED MCMORDECHAI:

We've taken an instant polk ~~of~~ all the children in the Persia,
and here's their opinion of Dr. Spank and Darlene Weisenberg's
child-rearing methodology...sung to their favorite melody, ~~for~~
~~"Adon Olam."~~

So that's what you think
About bringing up kids
No wonder we're
Always flipping our lids.

Well, bringing up parents
Is twice as tough
By the time we're five
We've had enough. (REPEAT LAST TWO LINES)

So if you want your kids
To grow up nice
And happy too
Take our advice.

Let's start with nutrition
Here's your first lesson:
Just take us to
The delicatessen. (REPEAT LAST TWO LINES)

With hotdogs and fries
Just fill the table
We'll eat twice as much
As we are able.

No apples for snacks
Is what we're askin'
Just 35 flavors
From Robbins and Baskin. (REPEAT LAST TWO LINES)

Don't make us go
To sleep at seven
The Playboy channel
Doesn't start 'til eleven.

That homework jazz
Has got to go
We'd rather go out
And earn some dough. (REPEAT LAST TWO LINES)

We couldn't care less
About Phi Beta Kappa keys
The world's got too many
PhDs.

We've said our piece
Please heed what we say
Pay attention parents
Or we'll run away. (REPEAT LAST 2 LINES)

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