## Torah Tales

Levit 19:1 -20:27



#### From Mrs. Noah

Join Hannah, Max, Mrs. Noah and many of their friends as they explore the Torah and the awesome stories and lessons waiting to be found

# Part 1 Looking for Dodi in Mt. Sinai

**Continued story:** Hannah and Max went to Mt. Sinai to watch as YHWH gave more instructions about a new moed — a holy day, set apart for Him to meet with His people. Max also wanted to find his friend, Dodi.

They looked and looked through the crowd, people who had gathered to hear more from YHWH,

but no Dodi.

Finally, just as they were ready to leave, Max spotted Dodi.
BUT, Dodi didn't seem to recognize them, or even see them. Max felt really bad. But, suddenly, Dodi looked right at Hannah and Max and frowned. He started walking – walking – then running. "Hey you!" Dodi shouted.

Max looked at Hannah. She knew that look. He was scared. "Maaaaaaax!" she called as he slipped away into the crowd.

Hannah stood there as Dodi got closer and closer. She wanted to run, too. "Where's Max?" Dodi panted.

Hannah could see how disappointed Dodi was. She shook her head and shrugged her shoulders.

"I didn't recognize him at first – but then I remembered! Come this way," he said quietly to Hannah. "If we go over there, we can hear the instructions The Almighty is giving to Moshe."

They slipped through and around the crowd to a spot where Hannah could hear their voices. Just then she heard YHWH say, "Speak to the entire community of Isra'el; tell them, 'You people are to be holy because I, YHWH your Elohim, am holy'." He went on. "Each of you must respect his father and mother, and you must observe Shabbats. I am YHWH your Elohim."

They sat quietly and listened to YHWH tell Moshe that the people shouldn't lie or make false images. He went on to teach them how to treat animals and seed their crops. They heard Him tell them to keep the Shabbats, revere His sanctuary, and honor the elderly.

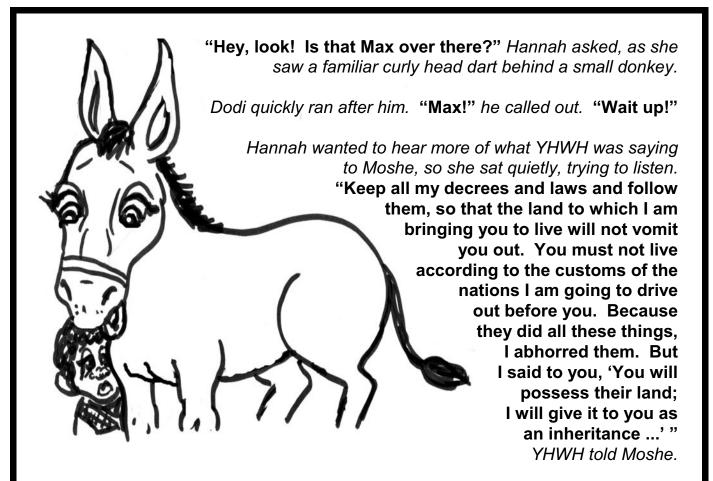


"Dodi," Hannah asked, "did He just say we are supposed to stand up in the presence of a person with gray hair to show respect for the elderly?" Dodi nodded. "Yes. He wants us to honor the old. Oh, listen! He also said a person who curses his father or mother should be put to death."

(Draw a picture of an old person)

"Why would He say that? Isn't that pretty mean?" Hannah asked.

"No. It's good." *Dodi started.* "Most of us kids have seen what happens when people don't listen to Him. We KNOW what will happen if we EVER treat our parents badly. So, that teaching has saved a lot of us from a bad life – and even death. Also, parents will work harder to teach their children. They can see that if we respect them, we will respect The Almighty," he told her.



Dodi and Max quietly slipped next to Hannah. They were both smiling. "He really wants us to be separate from the other nations – in our food, our animals, the way we treat each other ..." Dodi said softly.

"That's 'bout clean and unclean, AGAIN. Sure is important to Him," Max whispered. He was glad to see Dodi remembered him and was still his friend. "Wad I miss?"

Hannah stood up. "We can talk about it later. It's getting late and I need to get back to help Mrs. Noah feed the goats," she told him.

"I wanna stay and talk to Dodi. You go on. I'll ask Moogy 'bout the parts I missed when I get back," Max said as he sat down next to Dodi.

Hannah looked at the cloud of smoke and fire above the Tabernacle. She didn't like leaving Max behind. What if he forgot how to use his imagination? "I don't know, Max," she said. "We have a lot of work to do ..." but when she turned to tell them she didn't want to leave Max behind – they were gone!

Part 2
The Wilderness

Hannah, Max and Miss B noticed a bunch of bushes near where Moshe was listening to more instructions from YHWH.

"Let's hide in here, so we can get closer," Max whispered, as he began to crawl into the shrubs.

"Watch out for stickers," Miss B warned, as she slipped down into Hannah's pocket.

Hannah pushed leaves and branches out of her face, as she tried to keep up with Max. Her hair got

caught and, as she tried to untangle it, she saw, sitting on her shoulder looking right at her, a large black – "Spider!" she gasped.

"What-cha look'n at?" the spider said.

"I, I've never talked to a spider before!" Hannah reluctantly replied.

"We wanna hear, too!" it replied quickly.

Max crawled back to see who Hannah was talking to. "Who are you talking to," he demanded, as he noticed the spider on her shoulder.

Max's mouth dropped open. He was speechless.

The spider jumped onto a cluster of leaves near Max. "The animals, the insects, the trees – the whole land is listening to the words the Almighty One says. He's been telling Moshe things to tell all of the people," the spider told them.

Miss B peeked out from her hiding place in Hannah's pocket. "What HAS He been saying to Moshe now?"

"Well," the spider replied – a little surprised to see a bookworm in Hannah's pocket, "the Almighty One told the big man, I think they call him Moses or Moshe – or Mo something – He told him to tell the people they should be kodesh – whatever that means." [Levit 20:26]

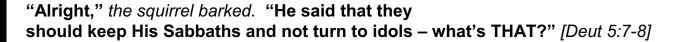
"Kodesh means set apart – Holy," *Max explained.* "We have heard Him say a bunch of times He wants His people to be different from other people. He tells them a WHOLE bunch of things He wants them to do."

"Or - NOT do!" Hannah added.

The spider got closer to Max. "He jus told'em to revere their mothers and fathers. What's that mean?" [Levit 19:3, Deut 5:16] (Sterns)

Just then a small squirrel jumped out of one of the bushes. He seemed angry. "Stop! You guys have been here before. SO, what does 'revere' mean?"

"It means to treat them with respect – to obey them," Miss B almost shouted, as she watched the little squirrel trying to stop them from getting closer.



Hannah was beginning to be a little impatient. "Sabbaths are special meeting times that He has set to meet with His people. There is one each week and a bunch more scattered throughout the year. They help us remember Him and all He wants to teach us."

"I guess you're OK," the squirrel said. Then, he smiled. "Here is what we heard. The Almighty One went on to talk about sac-ri-fices, and He told them to leave the food on the edges of their fields for poor people." [Levit 19:9-10, Levit 23:22]

"And," the spider added quickly "he said they shouldn't hate their kin – even in their heart – or even bear a grudge against any of their people!"

"What's 'kin'?" the squirrel asked.

Max thought for a minute. "That's people in your family."

The spider slid down the web that he had hung from a long, thin branch. "We don't have any people in our family." Then, it started moving toward where Moshe was talking with YHWH.

Hannah began to laugh. "Not people, silly. The Almighty One knows YOU don't have people in YOUR family. He just wants us all to love each other."

Then, they all heard His voice ... "You shall rise up before the gray headed and honor the aged, and you shall fear your God – I am the LORD." [Levit 19:32]

They listened quietly as YHWH gave Moshe more instructions. "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger ... for you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I AM the LORD your GOD." [Lev 19:33-34]

> They were amazed at His voice. It boomed across the land, but at the same time, it was gentle and peaceful.

"You SHALL keep all My statutes and all My ordinances. and observe them. so that the land to which I bring you to settle in may not vomit you out," He told them. "You

shall not follow the practices of the nation that I am driving out before you. Because they did all these things – I abhorred them." [Levit 20:22-23]

Hannah looked at Max. His eyes were very big.



"Oh, no! The candy bars!" he shouted.

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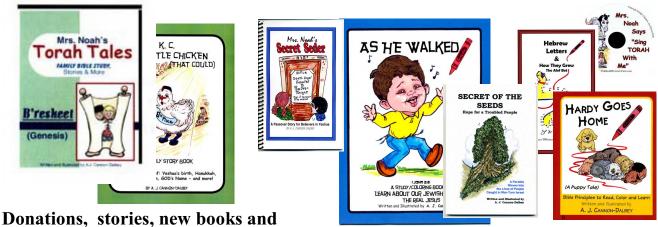
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### Background of Our Stories

We all use our imaginations – mostly to worry. So, each week Mrs. Noah, Hannah, Max and the gang use THEIR imaginations to journey into the Torah and see the lessons YHWH – YaHuWaH – has for us. They help many others learn as they explore the Scriptures. This is a STUDY – following along with the weekly Torah portion – with stories Mrs. Noah loves to tell to help families "see" – and discuss – the Scriptures better.

Hannah is a REAL puppet. She loves to draw and learn on her journeys.

<u>Max</u> is a puppet, too. He gets into a lot of trouble! He goes on adventures with his family.

Zak comes to visit his cousin, Max. He is from Israel. He likes to use his 'magination to learn more about the history of Isra'el.

Mrs. Noah is an old lady who loves to draw pictures, tell stories, and study the Torah with the many characters from her books.

<u>Moogy and Miss B</u> are bookworms. They live high in the attic of the old abandoned library, down the street from Mrs. Noah, along with a little mouse named <u>Cecil</u>. They read lots and lots of forgotten books. They have discovered wonderful stories and secret messages - hidden right in plain sight.

Max, Moogy and Miss B all have come to live with Mrs. Noah. They ask lots of questions about the Torah; learn to use their imaginations to visit stories in the TORAH; listen to Mrs. Noah's wisdom; hear her stories; and savor her goodies.

Look at our website as it grows!

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