

וַיֹּאמְרוּתָם כֹּה לֵאמֹר

רַבִּי  
שִׁמְעוֹן  
בֶּר  
יֹחָאִי

רַבִּי שִׁמְעוֹן צַדִּיקָא

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A Teacher's Resource

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# Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai Poster

TORAH UMESORAH LAKEWOOD TEACHER CENTER

## DESCRIPTION:

This poster is based on the famous song "Bar Yochai". It illustrates many different points about the life of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and the impact that he had on Klal Yisroel.

There are four ideas being brought out in the Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai scene; his hiding in the cave, no rainbow was seen during his lifetime, the Halachos he was mechadeish, and the protection that he and his Torah learnings provide for us today. Each of these ideas is illustrated with a detailed, striking graphic. The 32"x20.25" poster can be hung in the classroom or reduced to 8.5"x11" for the students' notebooks.



## STORY:

רבי שמעון of יאהרציט is the "יום היולא" is כ"ג בעומר. Who was רשב"י, and what was so special about him?

רשב"י was a great תנא who lived in the the second generation after חרבן בית שני. רשב"י was a תלמיד of ר' עקיבא who did not die during the מגפה that befall the תלמידים of ר' עקיבא! He was very close to רבי בני ברק, and he learned in his yeshiva in רשב"י. רשב"י learned so much תורה that his name appears in the גמרא 2,000 times!

Eretz Yisroel was ruled by the Romans during רשב"י's lifetime. One time, רשב"י was gathered together with other חכמים in the city of יבנה. They were discussing the Roman Government rule over Eretz Yisroel when one of the חכמים (רבי יהודה בר אלעי) commented:

"The Romans actually did us some favors. They built marketplaces and bridges throughout ארץ ישראל."

רשב"י replied: "Whatever the Romans built in ארץ ישראל was for their own benefit and pleasure. They did not do this for us!"

רשב"י's comment was repeated by גרים בן גרים, who



overheard it. It eventually reached the Roman Government and רשב"י was sentenced to death by the government for what he said against the Roman government.

רשב"י heard the verdict and decided that he must hide from the Romans. רשב"י went to the בית מדרש together with his son אנעור and they remained in hiding there. His wife brought them food each day. After some time, רשב"י worried that he and his son would be found. He therefore went together with his son אנעור to hide in a cave near the village of פקיעין, where they learned תורה day and night!

A huge נס occurred for רשב"י and his son. Hashem sent a stream of clean, fresh spring water for them to drink and to use for washing their clothes. A carob tree grew right outside the cave. They were able to eat the carob fruits and drink the fresh water, and continue to be nourished while they were in hiding!

This was an amazing miracle, because it normally takes at least 70 years for a carob tree to bear its first fruit! (Additionally, the carob tree turned into a date tree every Erev Shabbos, in honor of the Shabbos!)

רשב"י and his son spent every minute of their time in the cave learning Torah. It was in this cave that רשב"י revealed to them the deep secrets of the Torah.

רשב"י and his son were hiding in the cave for twelve years when the Roman Emperor (who decreed their death) died. רשב"י informed them of this, and רשב"י and his son left the cave, free at last, to return to their home.

As they were walking along their way, they noticed that the people around them were occupied with mundane daily tasks, such as plowing their fields and cutting the grass. They could not understand how these people can be busy with such activities instead of being busy learning Torah! They were on such a high level of קדושה that they could not identify with the lives of regular people. Hashem sent a בן קול that directed them to return to the cave for another twelve months. After this time, רשב"י came to understand that not everybody will be learning Torah all the time, yet all their actions that are being done can be used for a mitzvah.

רשב"י and his son met a man on שבת running home with two הדסים. They asked him what the hadasim are for, and he explained that the הדסים were לכבוד שבת, to decorate his home. The man explained that one of the הדסים represents "זכור" and the other represents "שמור". They understood from this that the people around them are also busy with mitzvos!

רשב"י (ויארחיט) is the "יום היולא" נ"ג בעומר. רשב"י gathered all of his תלמידים and his son on this day and he revealed to them the many secrets of the Torah. These סודות התורה are written in the ספר הזהר. Normally, the day a צדיק dies is marked in sadness. However, נ"ג בעומר was marked as a day of שמחה because רשב"י was able to give over on this day so much of his knowledge of תורה to his תלמידים. These סודות התורה would never have become known to כלל ישראל otherwise!

A great miracle took place on נ"ג בעומר. The city of מירון was filled with a special light, the light of תורה emanating from רשב"י. The sun did not set at its' usual time on that day until רשב"י was finished teaching his תלמידים all of the סודות התורה. Only then did the sun set. רשב"י's נשמה departed when he finished teaching all of his תורה to his תלמידים. רשב"י requested that the day of his פטירה, which is נ"ג בעומר, be a day of שמחה because of the tremendous amount of תורה that he was able to give over to his תלמידים on this day.

It is a מנהג on נ"ג בעומר to bring extra light and שמחה to this day by lighting bonfires, dancing, and singing songs about רשב"י. The extra light commemorates the special light of Torah that lit up מירון on the day that רשב"י died. It also commemorates the light of the sun that did not set until רשב"י finished teaching all of his תורה to his תלמידים!

It is a מנהג for children to play on נ"ג בעומר with a קשת (bow and arrow) as a reminder that a קשת (rainbow) was never seen in the sky during רשב"י's lifetime. All of his נמוך התורה served as a זכות and a source of protection from פורענות (punishment) for the world during his lifetime.

