

SPENDING SIMCHAS TORAH AT THE YESHIVA

QUESTION:

My seventeen year old son learns in a prominent Yeshiva Gedolah and we are very proud of his progress. Our 'mesiras nefesh' for Torah is not having him around the house all year long. My wife lives for Yomim Tovim and bein hazmanim, when he is home again. I accept that throughout the years, parents have done far more for their sons' learning and am happy to do my share.

Now, he asked us for permission to return to his Yeshiva for Simchas Torah, saying that his Rebbeim feel that it is an invaluable part of the Yeshiva experience.

I don't doubt that and have no wish to deprive him of it. However, he is so rarely home; must I allow him these precious few days as well? Is there something wrong with my chinuch if I keep him home with us in order to enhance our simchas Yom Tov?

I feel that this is one of the hardest questions for me to answer since the Chinuch Roundtable came into being because of the dilemma in heeding the recommendation of the *Rebbeim* to spend *Simchas Torah* with the *Yeshiva* and, on the other hand, the spirit and *mitzvah* of *Kibbud Av V'Eim*.

I think this dilemma will have many different answers depending on the personal background and upbringing of the one answering the question.

There is no doubt that a *Yeshivishe Simchas Torah* with your *Rebbeim* and friends can bring one to a great spiritual level. One can also make the argument to the mother that her son is home two weeks before *Simchas Torah* which includes the first days of *Yom Tov* and the week after *Yom Tov*. Let him have a good time with his friends for the last days. (I wonder why then it is acceptable that after a young man marries, he spends *Simchas Torah* with either set of parents. Doesn't he still require growth in his *ruchniyus*? Should he not make arrangements to spend *Simchas Torah* in his Yeshiva?)

However, the mother's longing for *naches* from her son during the *Yom Tov seudos* and her desire to observe his dancing with *simchas HaTorah* on Simchas Torah from her perch in the *Ezras Noshim*, is not something to belittle. It might even make her *mesiras nefesh* the entire year, as quoted in the question, worth it when she sees *Ahavas HaTorah*.

My opinion is "*vesomachto be'chagecho ato uvincho uvitecho*" which is specifically said with regard to *Succos*, and *Chazal* chose *Simchas Torah* to be celebrated at that time. It is not as if this *Yeshiva bochur* will not have the opportunity to be in the proper atmosphere for the *Yom Tov* if he remains at home. I would just like to add that ultimately the home is responsible for the religious upbringing of the children and all that there is to be gained by being in the environs of one's parents during *Yom Tov*.

However, I would not come to such a conclusion until the *bochur* speaks to his *Rebbe* and explains the personal situation he finds himself in at home. I am sure that the *Rebbe* will agree with his mother.

Whichever opinion you choose, do it with *ahava ve'achva, ve'shalom, ve'reus*, and above all, with *simcha* in the spirit of *Simchas HaTorah*.