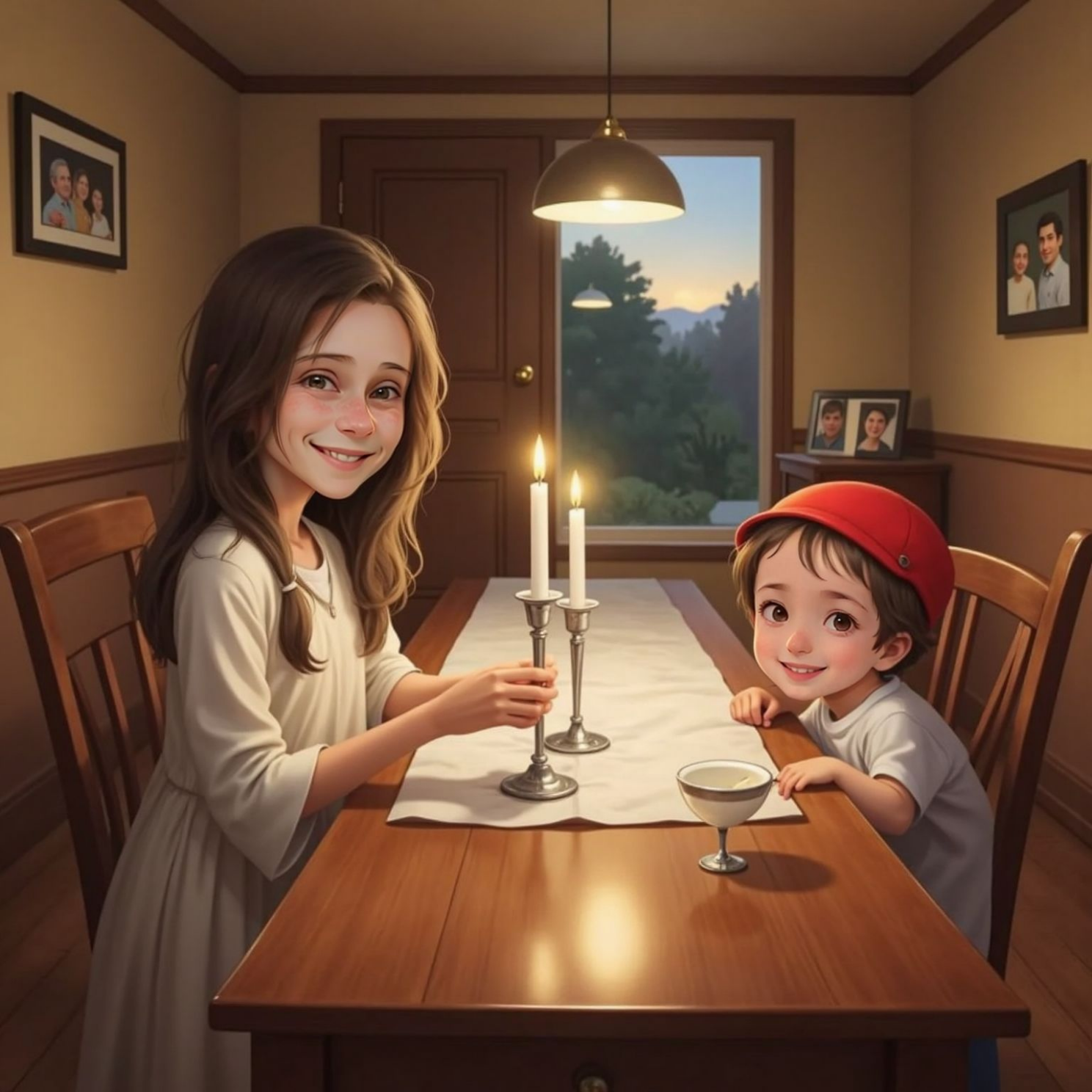


MATKA'S JEWISH HEART



BY LINDA LEVIN & AI

Matka looked around the table at his Duchess and the grandchildren. "Bandit, would you help light the candles?" he asked warmly. Bandit nodded, smiling at Matka. Boychick and Cupcake brought flowers from the garden. Cricket and Kevin giggled as Dino peeked out from under the table. The house was full of laughter and love.



Friday night was special. Dutchess baked challah, and the grandchildren set the plates. Matka sang a Shabbat song while Dutchess smiled sweetly at him. "Cricket, are you ready to make the Challah with me?" Dutchess asked. Cricket nodded, feeling proud. The smell of Challah filling the room.



Matka put his hands on each grandchild's head. "May you be blessed and grow strong in faith," he said gently. Dino closed his eyes, feeling safe. Boychick grinned, pretending not to like the fuss. Cupcake whispered, "Thank you, Matka." Everyone felt loved and connected.



Dinner was filled with joy and delicious smells. Kevin tried the soup and said, "Yum!" Bandit passed the bread, laughing. Dutchess reminded everyone to thank Hashem for the food. Cricket told a funny story about school, making everyone smile. Shabbat was truly wonderful.



After dinner, Matka asked "Who wants to sing songs with me?" Boychick and Cupcake started singing loudly. Dino clapped his hands while Bandit spun in circles. Cricket and Kevin joined the chorus. The songs echoed with happiness.



On Rosh Hashanah, Cupcake helped Matka make teiglach. The kitchen smelled like honey and nuts. Dino licked the spoon and giggled. "It tastes sweet like a good year," said Cricket. Dutchess sprinkled more sugar on top. Bandit carefully put the sweets on a plate.



September

No	Peasants	Fields	etc
1	2	4	5
11	11	11	11
21	21	21	21
30			

On Yom Kippur, Matka and Dutchess walked slowly home from shul. "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life," Matka said to each child. Cupcake and Boychick held Matka's hands. Kevin whispered, "I'm hungry, but I'm brave." The family felt united. The day was peaceful and quiet.



For Sukkot, the family built a sukkah together in the backyard. Bandit strung colorful paper chains with Cricket. Dino handed Boychick tiny gourds to set on the table. Dutchess brought hot cocoa for everyone. "Our sukkah looks beautiful!" said Cupcake. They all admired the decorations and stars above.



Matka showed everyone how to light the menorah on Chanukah. Kevin said, "I want a turn lighting a candle!" Cricket spun the dreidel while Bandit watched the flames. Dutchess served crispy latkes with applesauce. Dino snacked on a sufganiyot. The room sparkled with happy lights.



On Passover, Matka hid pieces of bread around the house. "Bring your feather, Cricket!" he called. Bandit, Dino, and Kevin followed, searching every corner. Cupcake cheered whenever someone found chametz. Boychick gathered the crumbs in a bag. Together, they learned about the story of Passover, freedom and family.



Purim was loud and festive. Bandit dressed as Queen Esther, and Kevin dressed like Mordechai. Matka led the way, shaking his grogger. Cricket and Dino marched in circles, laughing. Cupcake gave out hamantaschen cookies. Boychick made silly faces, making everyone giggle.



On Shabbat, Matka sat quietly and watched his family. "I am so blessed," he whispered to Dutchess. Boychick and Cupcake helped Dino stack blocks. Cricket, Bandit, and Kevin played a quiet game nearby. Dutchess squeezed Matka's hand. Shabbat brought peace to his Jewish heart.



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