



Tsikkerboba "Mama's Boy"

Janusz Korczak, lists from the journals

I came across the accusation (in a private circle) that in my notes about the summer camps lifestyle, the boys are not Jewish enough. They are just any **children** in the village, and not Jewish children in particular.

A seemingly true comment: In the beginning, I too looked for the characteristic Jewish features in them. What is there to do, I searched and couldn't find.

Cowardice - the famous cowardness of the Jews! There were such; But the group, the majority of the crowd as one body – made fun of them, called them by nicknames: "Tsikarboba", "Shlimzel", and they themselves crawled into the kennel, amazing! Kennel of chained Dogs with whom they bonded.

- Dirty - you say? - On their own initiative, they ask for a bowl of water after lunch; In the beginning they washed their hands just before the meal. - What else do we have, if I'm not mistaken - trickery, cunningness, greed? - There were no opportunities for that, one boy or another tended to what is called in the students' language "to suck up" to the teacher - but he was soon cured of this defect on account of finding no field for action. - Finally - lying and fraud? - If the child saw that the truth did not lead to unpleasant results, such as punishment - why would he lie? - and another thing: laziness? - after all, by the sweat of their brows they dug a fort using sticks; Another time they worked half a day to build a running track out of sand; Or another case when in less than an hour they collected a pile of branches half a story high; Needless to say, the several kilometer trips were always preceded with joy.

And if they were allowed to seriously fight, they would have broken each other's teeth, no lesser than Christian boys.

Same thing regarding the "good virtues" of the Jews. - participation in grief, concern and devotion to the young and weaker – ability of impression or sensitivity or finally intelligence?

- All of these may be unnoticed neither this or that way - if you don't know how to search or don't want to...

Here, on the Warsaw soil - if a dog will be urged to attack him, he is threatened with a stone or his hat is knock off his head into the mud - our tsikerbobe will flee in "a very funny way", crying and shouting like a clumsy screaming coward. - When his parents send him to sell





"forty pins for two pennies" - he will become a cheeky, sly nuisance. – But keep in mind that in the summer camp they live in completely different conditions than those they are used to, and apart from a faint echo from their parents' house - they can be, first and foremost - happy children.

Look, its about time to learn the so-simple truth, that a child is a child. - To this extent the thoughts of humans got mixed up!...

