

NAGEELA

Shabbos

SEASON 1, EPISODE 34

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A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Gerald was a nasty piece of work. He was a scheming, conniving, nefarious, backbiting, perfidious, deceitful, corrupt, meanspirited person. But not to everyone. He had one specific victim, named Jerry. Gerald and Jerry had been in school together, and teachers had always gotten their names mixed up. One day, Gerald had done a great science project, yet the principal had publicly praised Jerry. Gerald swore undying hatred and revenge. From that day on he made it his life's mission to ruin Jerry's life.

Was he obvious about his dastardly designs? Oh, no. Not at all. Gerald was underhanded and evil, yes. But all in secret. Publicly, he pretended to be Jerry's good friend. He would sneak up to Jerry's house at night, right before a crouching hot day, and fill half Jerry's car with unpopped corn kernels. After a few hours basking in the sun... the next day he offered to lend Jerry his car.

Several times, Gerald had called in anonymous complaints to Jerry's boss, eventually getting Jerry fired. Once, Gerald hacked Jerry's email and sent



embarrassing photos to all his friends. He stole a credit card number from Jerry and ordered over ten

Roasted Goose

by Rabbi Dani Locker

thousand dollars worth of live geese, delivered to Jerry's front porch. To make a long story a very little bit shorter, Gerald succeeded in making Jerry's life miserable. Each time, Gerald would publicly sympathize, pretending to help, to be a supporter. Jerry knew about Gerald's betrayals, but since nobody else knew, and Gerald seemed so positive, friendly and supportive, no one would believe Jerry.

Then one day, Gerald decided to stop beating around the bush. He rented a gigantic bulldozer and completely demolished Jerry's house. Standing amid the smoldering wreckage of what used to be his home (somehow there were still several dozen geese around- I think geese might be immortal), Jerry began to laugh. He laughed and laughed until he crumpled to the ground in a peal of laughter. Also, in peels of laughter, because the wreckage had some banana scraps. Jerry's friends gathered around him, concerned; not just for the loss of his house, but also for the apparent loss of his mind.

"Ummm, Jerry. What's going on? Why are you laughing? Gerald kinda sorta just destroyed everything you own!"

Jerry took several deep breaths, spit out some feathers and responded. "You don't understand how happy I am right now. OK. I'm actually really upset about my house, but

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that can be rebuilt. Gerald has been ruining my life for 20 years and nobody believed me. It was torture! Now that he has shown his true colors and revealed himself to be the evil creep I've always known he is, I believe my life will improve. Yes, he'll still try to hurt me, and he might even succeed sometimes, but now everyone knows he's the enemy. Now I can move forward!"

As our early ancestors traveled through the desert, one thing they excelled at was complaining. They complained that there was no water, so they got water. They complained that they were hungry, so Mann-soon season arrived. Our parsha relates that at one point this mann wasn't enough for the people, who really were in the mood for a barbecue. They complained that they had no meat. It didn't end well, and many people died (with meat, of course). The Torah then names the location where this happened, and calls it 'kivros hataava' which basically means

the desire got buried. However, this wording doesn't seem to fit the story very well. It wasn't really 'the desire' that got buried, but the people who had the desire. I suppose their spleens also got buried, but the Torah doesn't call it 'Kivros ht'chol.'

Rabbi Yaakov of Dubno explains that desire is like Gerald. It is insidious, and can ruin a person. It usually does- people who can't control their impulses and urges will invariably fail at life. But desire pretends it's our friend. We think that getting the stuff we want is awesome. And that is extremely dangerous. It's doubly difficult to succeed in life when we can't tell what feelings and motivations are healthy and which are poisonous. The best thing we can do is to identify 'desire, whether it's for food, power, money, acceptance, physical pleasure, comfort or pickles, and know its challenges. It'll still get the better of us sometimes, but knowing the battlefield and knowing 'the enemy' is a tremendous advantage.

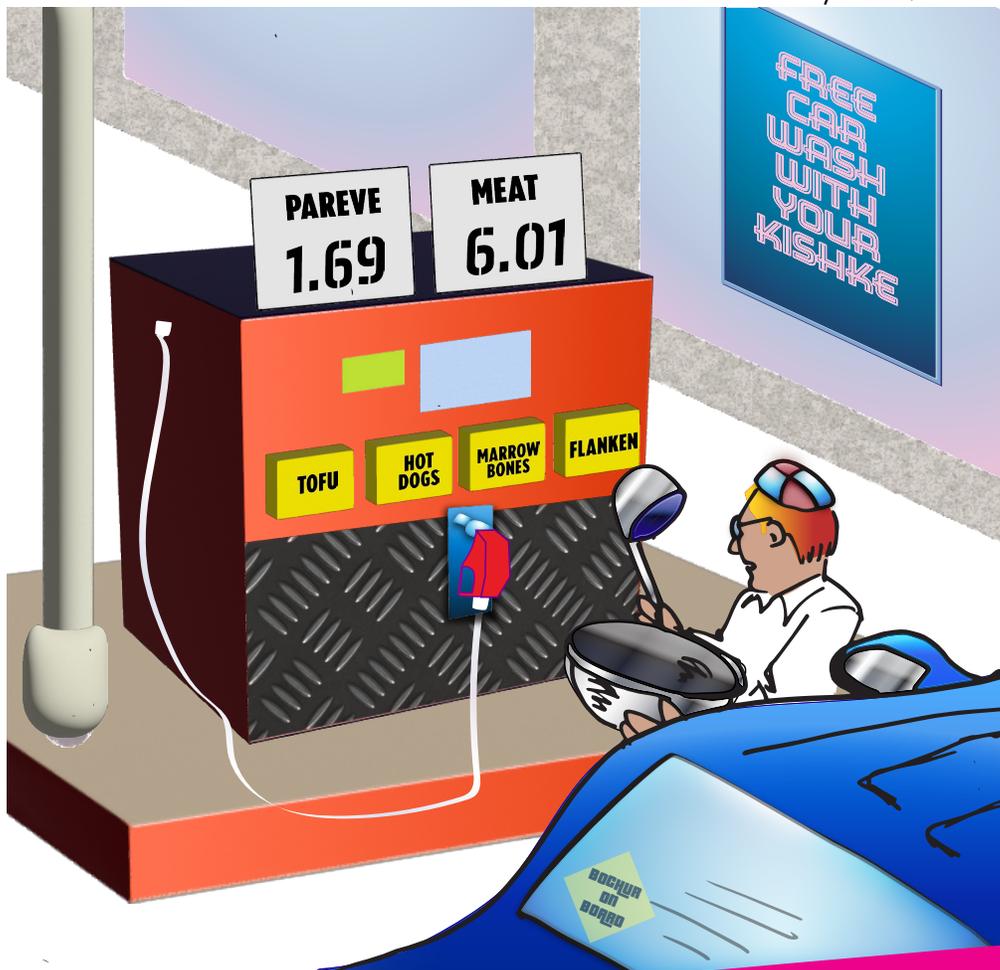
So when the Jewish people, who owed their lives, allegiance and gratitude to God, instead complained that they wanted meat, and that desire led to a disaster, in a way, desire got buried. Desire itself became less enticing, as people realized the obvious harm it could do to their souls, and to the goose population of the desert.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023



Q OF THE WEEK

PESACH SHEINI IS THE 'MAKE-UP' FOR THOSE WHO MISSED BRINGING THE PASSOVER OFFERING. THE TWO QUALIFICATIONS THE TORAH GIVES TO BRING THE PESACH SHEINI ARE BECAUSE SOMEONE WAS IMPURE OR THEY WERE TOO DISTANT TO TRAVEL.

CAN YOU NAME TWO OTHER INSTANCES WHERE PEOPLE WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM THE ORIGINAL PESACH OFFERING AND WHO DO BRING A PESACH SHEINI?

NO CHEATING
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

STUMP THE RABBI

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note & Disclaimer: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

#242

**On that
Note...**

I know there's a lot of 'Jewish' music out there, and I am under the impression that some people won't listen to secular music at all. Is this true? If so, why? Is there something unkosher about music that isn't Jewish? And does it matter if the artist is Jewish if the music isn't?

**Thanks,
Michael Ben- Yaakov**

Hey Michael,

**What was Beethoven's favorite fruit?
BA-NA-NA-NAAAA**

There are lots of opinions on this and the conversation has been going on for literally thousands of years. I will try to use a broad brush and not be too specific, so that you get an idea. As always, the purpose of this publication is not to give halachic rulings, but to give you some background.

We Jews have always loved music. Did you know that when the Holy Temple stood, there was always an orchestra playing music during the services? And people look at me weird when I bring my saxophone to Megillah reading. Humph. Many prophets had musicians playing to get them into the appropriate mood to speak with God. King David was famous for playing music to praise God, with his famed kinor, which may or may not have been an electric bass guitar, or a DJ turntable. One thing I can assure you is that the Levite orchestra in the Temple, King David, Serach or any of the other great people who used music to connect to God were not listening to Kanye or Taylor Swift. You see, just like speaking, music can serve multiple purposes. Some of it is uplifting and awesome. Some of it is crude and dam-

aging. Then there's the type that is kind of neutral; it's just music. Many great Jewish role models have enjoyed listening to classical music, or other music that can be calming, uplifting or promote other positive emotions and attributes. Yet, a lot of popular music is harmful. There's music that promotes violence, and a ton of music with highly inappropriate language. But there's a real danger in music that promotes money, physical pleasure or provides unrealistic messages about relationships. If you put on a Spotify playlist and let it run, I think it's likely that 7 out of 8 songs will have some element that would be best un-

listened to. The goal behind 'Jewish Music' is to be uplifting, inspirational or educational. Most Jewish songs have quotes from the Torah, lessons or stories of great people doing amazing things. Wheth-



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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023**

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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023**

DEEP THOUGHTS

YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN AN EMPTY ROOM.

er
it's a 'chazzan' (cantor) singing during kedu-sha, a musical havdalah, or songs around the Shabbos table, Jewish music helps us connect to God in a more meaningful way. Chassidic Rebbes in particular have long used and mastered the art of using music in a holy way. People like Rabbi Shlomo Carlbach melded holy words, relatable stories and 'modern' music styles that reached people in ways that simple words could not. But not all music has to be uplifting (I know, there's a halachic debate about that, too), and it's fine to have music that is simply enjoyable to listen to, or helps you keep a rhythm for your workout. As long as it's not damaging music. And as long as there are no bagpipes. Those are evil. Today, I was listening to some music while on my bike. Then my tire got a blowout. I guess it was pop music.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

WILL THERE BE ANOTHER GENERATION?

CAMP IS AN INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE TOOL IN BUILDING CONNECTED, COMMITTED JEWS

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Camp Nageela West has helped *hundreds* of WEST COAST Jewish kids and teens connect to meaningful Judaism.

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SESSION 2: JULY 17- AUGUST 3 [BOYS]

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- BRANDON ZUCKER
- LIEL AZOUZ
- ZACHARY GRAY
- CORBEN SLATER
- SOLOMON PETERS
- AHARON SEMEL
- ETHAN FRIEDMAN

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ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

HEY! STOP! THINK FIRST. NO PEEKING!

IF SOMEONE CONVERTS TO JUDAISM DURING THE MONTH AFTER PASSOVER, THEY WERE, OF COURSE, EXEMPT FROM THE FIRST OFFERING, BUT THEY ARE OBLIGATED TO BRING THE PESACH SHEINI. A CHILD WHO REACHES BAR MITZVAH BETWEEN THE TWO DATES IS ALSO OBLIGATED IN PESACH SHEINI.

WHEN SALADS GO ON ROAD TRIPS, THEY ALWAYS LIKE TO TAKE ALONG PORTABELLA.

FIRST OF ALL, HE'S A FUNGI, BUT ASIDE FROM THAT, HE DOESN'T TAKE UP MUSH ROOM.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



www.nageelawest.org

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