

nageela

Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 18

Registration is open for Camp Nageela West 2023 nageelawest.org/summer

HAVE A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

Biblical Booster Shot

by Rabbi Dani Locker

DVAR TORAH

Plants need the right environment to grow.

Light, humidity, temperature, water, nutrition, magic beans. All of these

factors can change

the result of how well a plant will thrive. So if you want to plant a beautiful garden, you want to carefully monitor the soil conditions, adjust the exposure to sunlight, and call your local Jewish-World- Domination office and have them control the weather for you. It would make sense as well that for the formation of the Jewish nation in our early stages that God would make sure we had all the right supplies and environmental stimuli necessary to give us a perfect background.

What kind of perfect environment do you think the Jewish people should have to grow? I suppose to answer that you'd first need to think about what kind of things you'd want your own children exposed to.

After all, we know that children are greatly influenced by their surroundings. We want our children to grow up around:

- People who are kind.
- People who are honest.
- People who are

dedicated to self improvement and are selfless, who are spiritually connected and intellectually stimulated.

Well that ain't what happened.

This week's Torah portion contains the birth and early upbringing of 12 of Jacob's 13 children. They were born in the land of Padan Aram, in the vicinity of the crude, corrupt Lavan. A land of loose morals, dishonesty and aggression. A place where worshiping of false and ridiculous deities was the norm. This is where the roots of the Jewish nation were planted. And it wasn't long after them before the whole family was shipped off to Egypt, another place of horrific influences.

This is exactly the point. There are many traits God wanted our ancestors to absorb, but perhaps the most important among them was the strength to stand up to adversity. To NOT be influenced by our surroundings. To see corruption around us and rise above it. Without this gritty ability, we would have disappeared long ago.

Would you consider sponsoring an episode? I'd tell you about all the blessings & rewards you'll get, but then you might lose out on some of the merit!



No matter what wonderful qualities we might have gained had our origins been among angels, we would have surely lost it all during one of the darker periods in our history.

Two disclaimers: First of all, please don't take this lesson to mean that we are now immune to outside negative influences. We're still able to be corrupted. Yet our origins give us perhaps some natural antibodies (we still need a mask and distancing, so to speak). Secondly, please don't get the impression that I'm advocating exposing your children

to negative influences. Our job as parents and teachers, generally speaking, is to guard our children from all things that can hurt them.

God, in His perfect and infinite wisdom, can know the proper dosage of adversity that 'won't kill us but will make us stronger.' Our lesson may be to appreciate and make the most of those experiences, but not to throw them out.

Their most important training was to stand up to adversity

seek

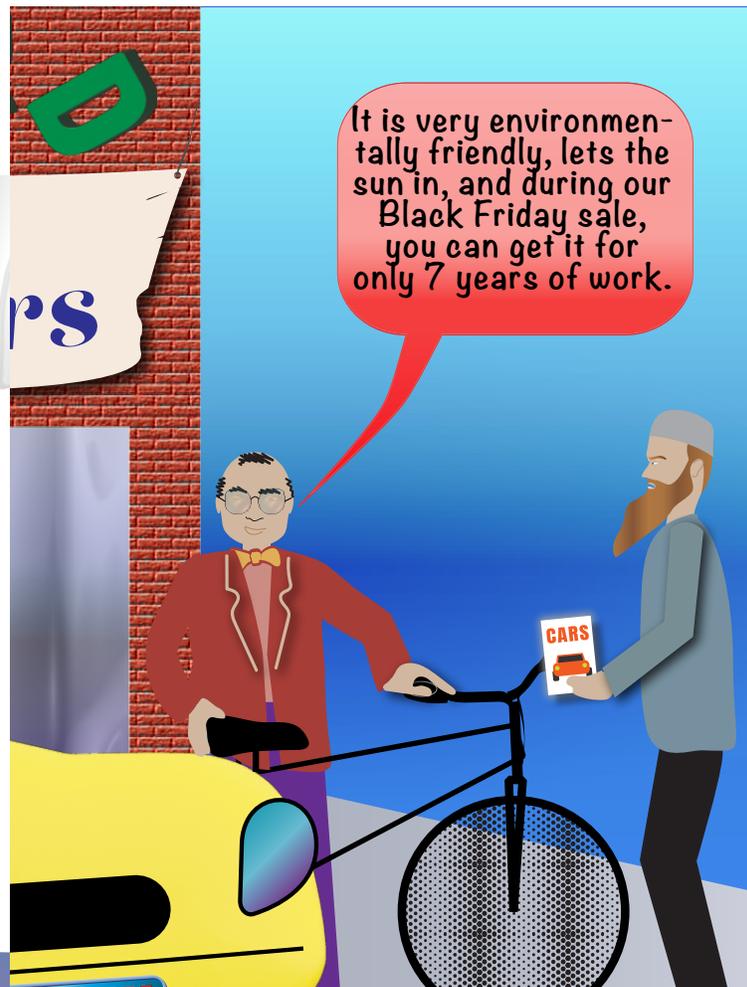
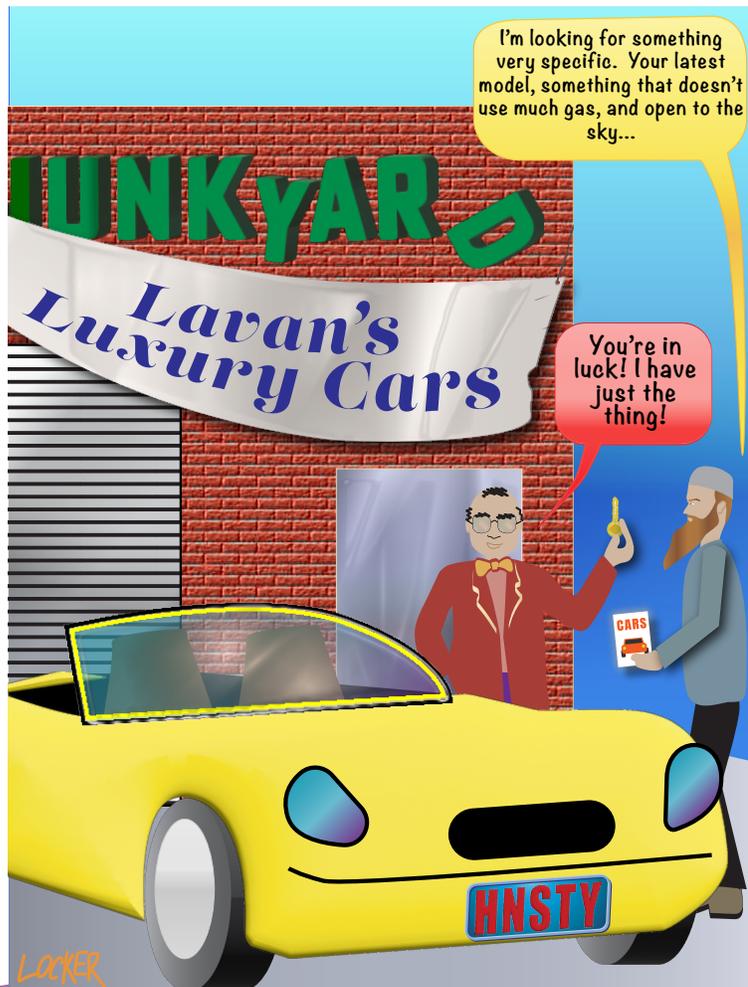
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PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



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DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023

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DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023

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,

#222 Does Judaism believe in manifesting?

Thanks,

**I AM
AWESOME!**

Emanuel Fest

Dear Manny Fest,

For readers who might not know what manifesting is, I'll give a little background. There's a pretty popular idea that you can think your way to a better life. I don't want to oversimplify it, but basically, people who practice manifesting will sit and think or say to themselves something like, "I am going to be rich and successful. I am going to be rich and successful. I am going to be rich and successful. I am going to be rich and successful." And the belief is that it will work. So does Judaism believe in manifesting?

Kinda.

I know that's not the most helpful answer, but worry not, I shall elaborate. Fill in the blank, Dip the ____ in the _____. What do you come up with?

Dip the pickle in the Coffee!

No, no, that's not it.

Dip the laptop in the bathtub.

Bad idea.

I think the words you're looking for are apple



and honey. As little children we're taught that eating an apple dipped in honey will give us a sweet year. Why? How? To some extent, it's about the prayer we say **WHEN** we dip, "May it be your will... that You renew for us a good and sweet year." But honestly, if we're gonna say a prayer, what's with all the theatrics? We don't hold a stethoscope every time we pray for good health, or open a banking app when we ask God for financial success. We can pray without visual aids. Yet on Rosh Hashana we insist on eating foods that hint to our requests.

Because in order for our prayers and our goals to be truly successful, we need to use our senses to envision them. You want a sweet year, start it off by thinking sweet, by eating sweet.

The truth is that this is a very common theme in Judaism. We wear tzitzis to remind us of God's commandments. We sit in a Sukkah so we can feel the gratitude and joy of God's protection. We blow the shofar to dramatize God's royalty. Eating matzah and marmor gets us in the mindframe of our oppressed ancestors. Many of the mitzvos

LOLZ

**TO WHOMEVER STOLE MY
MICROSOFT OFFICE ACCOUNT:
YOU WILL PAY!**

YOU HAVE MY WORD.

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



FUN TIMES IN MESA, AZ THIS WEEK

DEEP THOUGHTS

AFTER YOU'VE READ THE DICTIONARY, EVERY OTHER BOOK IS JUST A REMIX

that we do accomplish the goal of helping us focus on a certain idea, memory or value. Yet, just the good thoughts don't accomplish the goals on their own. In the Rosh Hashana example, the prayer is still the main part. The 'manifesting' of positive thinking helps us get in the right mindset for the prayer. So if your question is "Does Judaism believe that we can change our lives by doing nothing but thinking positively?" I'd say, "Not a chance." But if you're asking whether using positive thinking and meditation techniques can be useful as aids toward having good things happen to us... "You are correct. You are correct."

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



STUMP THE RABBI LIVE ON ZOOM!
OPEN TO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
Wednesday, Dec 7, 6-7PM
ZOOM ID: 580 485 3200 PASSWORD: NAGEELA

new CRAFTS GROUP
F O R G I R L S
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
@LVKOLLEL. CONTACT US FOR INFO

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- CHASE CORMAN
- MICHAELLA GAZALA
- JOSH LEYTON
- BABBI LOCKER
- HILLEL NISSIM
- YAAKOV POLONSKY
- ZEVI FRID
- RABBI DANI LOCKER

READ OVER 240 EPISODES IN OUR ARCHIVES, SUBSCRIBE AND MORE BY SCANNING THE CODE BELOW



QUICK FIX

THERE'S A HINT IN THIS PARSHA TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE (MINYAN).

WHEN JACOB AWAKES FROM HIS LADDER DREAM, THE WORDS THE TORAH USES ARE:

ויקץ יעקב משנתו ויאמר

"VAYIKATZ YAAKOV MISHNASO VAYOMAR- AND JACOB AWOKE FROM HIS SLEEP, AND SAID..."

THE LAST LETTER OF EACH OF THOSE WORDS (צבור) SPELLS THE WORD FOR CONGREGATION.

THE BAAL HATURIM SAYS THIS TELLS US THAT THE BEST WAY TO PRAY IS WITH A CONGREGATION.



www.nageelawest.org



801-613-1539