

Ki Savo 5781
August 27th, 2021

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5

EPISODE 37

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



The Joy of Burned Toast

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Amy sighed as she unwrapped her sandwich. The truth is that sandwich wasn't really the right word for it. Looking around, she saw all her classmates enjoying what seemed to be gourmet meals, complete with cookies, chocolate, fresh fruits and juice boxes. Amy glanced at the two pieces of hard toasted multigrain bread unhappily. For the past several months, she had been suffering terrible stomach pains, and most food made it worse. As a teenager, Amy probably would have ignored the doctors' warnings and indulged in a bit of chocolate, then dealt with the consequences later, but her parents were very strict about taking care of her health, and they would not let her eat anything that might damage her gastrointestinal salubrious-

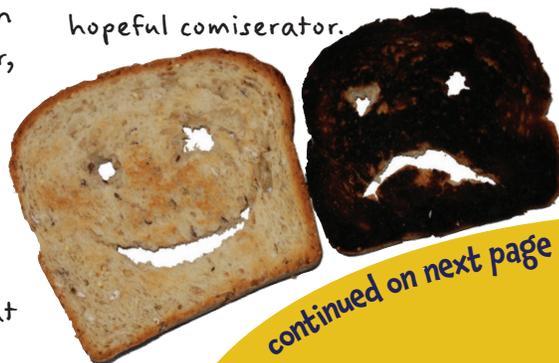
ness (that means it would give her a tummy ache). Most days for lunch she was only able to eat toast. Or raw kale. Or cooked ginger root. Sometimes, Amy wondered how caring parents could be so mean. Grumbling to herself, she started taking a bite, and then she saw her.

Janet was sitting a couple of tables over, and shockingly, was also eating two slices of toast. "Maybe we have the same condition!" was the first thought in Amy's mind as she raced over and seated herself across from her hopeful comiserator.



Candle lighting

- Honolulu 6:33
- Scottsdale 6:40
- Henderson 6:56
- Las Vegas 6:56
- San Diego 7:01
- Irvine 7:04
- Los Angeles 7:07
- Reno 7:19
- Oakland 7:27
- Park City 7:47



continued on next page

Didja know you can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos? Contact us for details! You just might change your life!

ness (that

"What do you have?" Amy asked.

"Toast," came Janet's terse reply. She didn't seem very cheerful.

"I can see that. I mean what condition do you have that's making you just eat toast?"

"Parent-itis."

"Oh I've never heard of that. What is it?"

"It's when my parents get angry at me and punish me by banning me from eating anything good. Today, they're only letting me have toast so I don't starve. I'm not sick. I'm just scolded."

Amy felt bad for Janet, but she suddenly felt a lot better about her own toast. True, it wasn't a delicious meal, and it left her feeling unsatisfied, but she now realized how wonderful it was

that she was eating this meal because of her parents' love and care. Poor Janet was suffering because of her parents' anger.

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This week's Torah portion tells us about many of the troubles our people would have over the course of our long history. If you read through it, it feels pretty harsh. It may be helpful for us to remember that God has no interest in punishing us or making us suffer. As a caring, responsible parent, there are sometimes very uncomfortable things that happen in order to prevent or cure spiritual or moral diseases. But if someone asks us what we have, our wholehearted answer should be 'Godlovesme-itis'.

LOCAL PROGRAMS BEGIN THIS WEEK!

CONTACT US ASAP IF YOU STILL WANT TO JOIN!

LAS VEGAS

THIS MONDAY
5PM FOR GRADES 4-6
6PM FOR GRADES 7-8
AT USWIRL

LA- CITY

THIS THURSDAY
LOCATION TBA

LA-VALLEY

THIS THURSDAY
LOCATION TBA

IRVINE

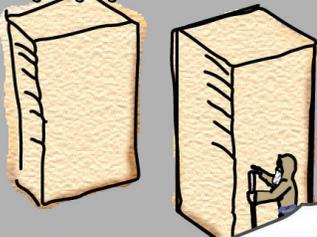
THIS THURSDAY
6:30
COFFEE BEAN

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

MOSES COMMANDS THAT AS THE JEWS ENTER ISRAEL, THE ENTIRE TORAH MUST BE WRITTEN ON STONE TABLETS IN ALL 70 LANGUAGES...

The stones will have to be HUGE to fit so much info in so many languages



So, how about we just use one tablet, and install Google Translate?



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

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

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note: 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.

Stump the Rabbi



#178 Robotic Rabbis

Hi Rabbi,

I think I understand the importance of giving charity to those who can't support themselves. But I also heard that in biblical times there were gifts that had to be given to specific groups of people, like Kohanim and Levi'im. What kinds of gifts were they? Why would we all be forced to give money to these people, and not to others?

Thanks,
Moshe A. Asser

Dear M.A. Asser,
Last week, Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced the development of a humanoid robot. Basically what that means is that they're planning on making robots that look and act more or less like people, able to understand and carry out complex tasks like going to the store, lifting things and house cleaning (hey, wait... does that mean I never have to do homework again, like, ever?). In Musk's words, "In the future, physical work will be a choice. If you want to do it, you can, but you won't need to do it." He also said you'd be able to run away from it if it attacked you, which is a really weird and disturbing thing to say, but I'll leave that for another day. It's possible that in a few years, physical work will be a choice and all our menial, boring, annoying jobs will be taken care of by AI. You might find it hard to believe, but in biblical times, Tesla Bots were not very common. In fact, people who

wanted to get anything done had to do it themselves (I've heard their Amazon deliveries were slow, too). Pretty much, since everyone needed to eat (I assume) and food used to come from the ground (as opposed to now when food magically appears in refrigerators), everyone needed to farm in order to survive. That usually works, however there was a problem with this plan. God wants us to have spiritual leaders, teachers, rabbis and Torah scholars. Although it is important for all Jews to study Torah and develop a spiritual connection to God, it's imperative that some people dedicate more time and effort to being 'professional' spiritual leaders. In biblical times, those people were all from one of the twelve tribes of the Jewish people; the tribe of Levi. They were not given land in Israel, so they would not spend their time farming, or making baseball fields in the corn. Instead they would spend their time studying, teaching, caring for the Holy Temple and otherwise leading spiritually. Uh oh! If the



WHY IS EVERY CAMERA LENS ROUND, BUT THE PICTURES THEY CAPTURE ARE ALWAYS RECTANGULAR?

deep thoughts of



Levi was not given land, how did these tens of thousands of people feed themselves and their families? Ah hah! Now you see, don't you? The Torah established that one tenth of all produce grown had to be given to the tribe of Levi. This was kind of like a tax, but it wasn't collected by a government or any kind of centralized organization. You could give it to the Levi of your choice (which encouraged people to have a personal relationship with these spiritual leaders) and this way they were able to support themselves.

There is a family within the tribe of Levi called the Kohanim. They are all the great- grandchildren of Aaron (the first High Priest and brother to Moses), and their position was to perform the temple service. These spiritual leaders were also supported by communal funds. There are 24 special 'gifts' the Kohanim were entitled to, including challah (a portion of the dough), firstborn animals, first fruits and a smaller portion called terumah.

In modern times, giving donations to synagogues, Yeshivas and other institutions of spiritual growth help support spiritual leaders just as in the past, so they don't have to 'farm' (or computer program or sell real estate, or other things) and they can spend their time become greater scholars and spiritual leaders. These leaders (according to Maimonides) do

not need to be from the tribe of Levi, but anyone who wishes to dedicate themselves to the spiritual advancement of the Jewish people.

Maybe one day we'll have AI robots programmed as Torah teachers, but something tells me we'll always need learned, experienced humans. Don't worry though, you can probably also outrun your Rabbi.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



Most toys are fun to be around.

But Russian dolls are just so full of themselves!

OUCH! GRRROOAAAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to dlucker@nageelawest.org



Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Sasha Weiss

Julian Weiss

Noah Elgerabli

Maniv Ben-Shimon

Tehilla Ben Shimon

Royce Rozza

Yoni Stein

Nochi Locker

Yosef Cassell

Want to stay in the loop? Text the word **NAGEELAWEST** to **22828**



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Nageela West Coast

breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the West Coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.