

# HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

Shemos 5782  
December 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

SEASON 6 EPISODE 12

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## My Son the Priest

by Rabbi Dani Locker

What do you want to be when you grow up? Or if you're a parent, what do you want your children to be when they grow up?

Some parents are pretty insistent their children follow a planned path.

"When you get older, you'll go into the family business with me."

"But Dad, what if I don't enjoy creating musical instruments out of turnips?"

Or, "I want you to be a water slide tester."

"But I'm allergic to water!"

And the all too common, "I'll make sure you go to an Ivy League School."

"If I'm allergic to water, I'm DEFINITELY allergic to ivy!"

What do you think the greatest Jewish leader ever, the incomparable Moses, wanted for his kids? What college

(Burning Bush University?) did he want them to go to? What company could he dream they would work for? A Crocs salesman? Cashier at 'Old Navi'? Or did he want them to run a pyramid scheme? There were many options, as long as they could make a prophet of course...

How about priest for idolatry? I heard that job has great benefits, like cool hairstyles and unlimited s'mores. Seriously though, Moses would never agree to let his child become a priest, right?

Right?

Amazingly there's an opinion that Moses planned exactly that! According the Baal Haturim and others (see Mechilta... or don't- your choice!), when Moses decided to marry his wife Tziporah, her father Yisro (Jethro) made it conditional that their first born child would be-



Candle lighting

- Henderson 4:13
- Las Vegas 4:13
- Reno 4:22
- San Diego 4:30
- Irvine 4:30
- Los Angeles 4:32
- Oakland 4:37
- Park City 4:45
- Scottsdale 5:07
- Honolulu 5:38

Did you know you can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos for a birthday, anniversary, or just because you like Jews? Contact [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org) for details



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long to Rumpelstiltskin, I mean, their first born child would become a priest for some pagan idolatry. Why? How? I mean, Moses? The great leader and prophet? How could he agree to such a thing? FYI, this never ended up panning out, because Yisro, who had indeed been a priest, eventually recognized God and joined the Jewish people. But what was Moses thinking?

One would have to imagine that

**Talking about something wrong makes it a teensy bit less wrong in our minds**

Moses, knowing the nature of his father-in-law and his wife (who apparently had a say in the matter), Moses was 100% sure that Gershom would never, ever become a priest. He was willing to make the deal, certain that no harm would come of it. Yet the Midrash concludes that there was a consequence. A descendant of Gershom named Jonathan did become a priest for idolatry, several hundred years later. How did the unfulfilled promise of Moses lead to actual idolatry?

When we talk about things, that puts them in the realm of possibility. Talking about stealing something, for example, surely isn't as bad as stealing. Yet the very fact that you're talking about it makes it a bit more likely to happen. It's left the forum of the imagination and entered the world. Our words have that kind of power. This is one reason why Jewish law and tradition is so careful about speaking. Talking about business during Shabbat, saying something negative about someone else, making a rude or inappropriate joke. All these things bring negativity into the world

and need to be avoided. Have you ever wondered why Torah observant Jews tend to be more careful than most about proper speech,

about not using certain words and never to stoop to the level of an inappropriate joke (at least the ones I hang out with)? Here it is. Talking about something wrong makes it just a teensy bit less wrong in our minds. And as with Moses, it can have an effect. So what DO you want to be when you grow up? Something wonderful, I hope- and the way you speak is the first step to getting there.

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Amazing week! With many schoolas

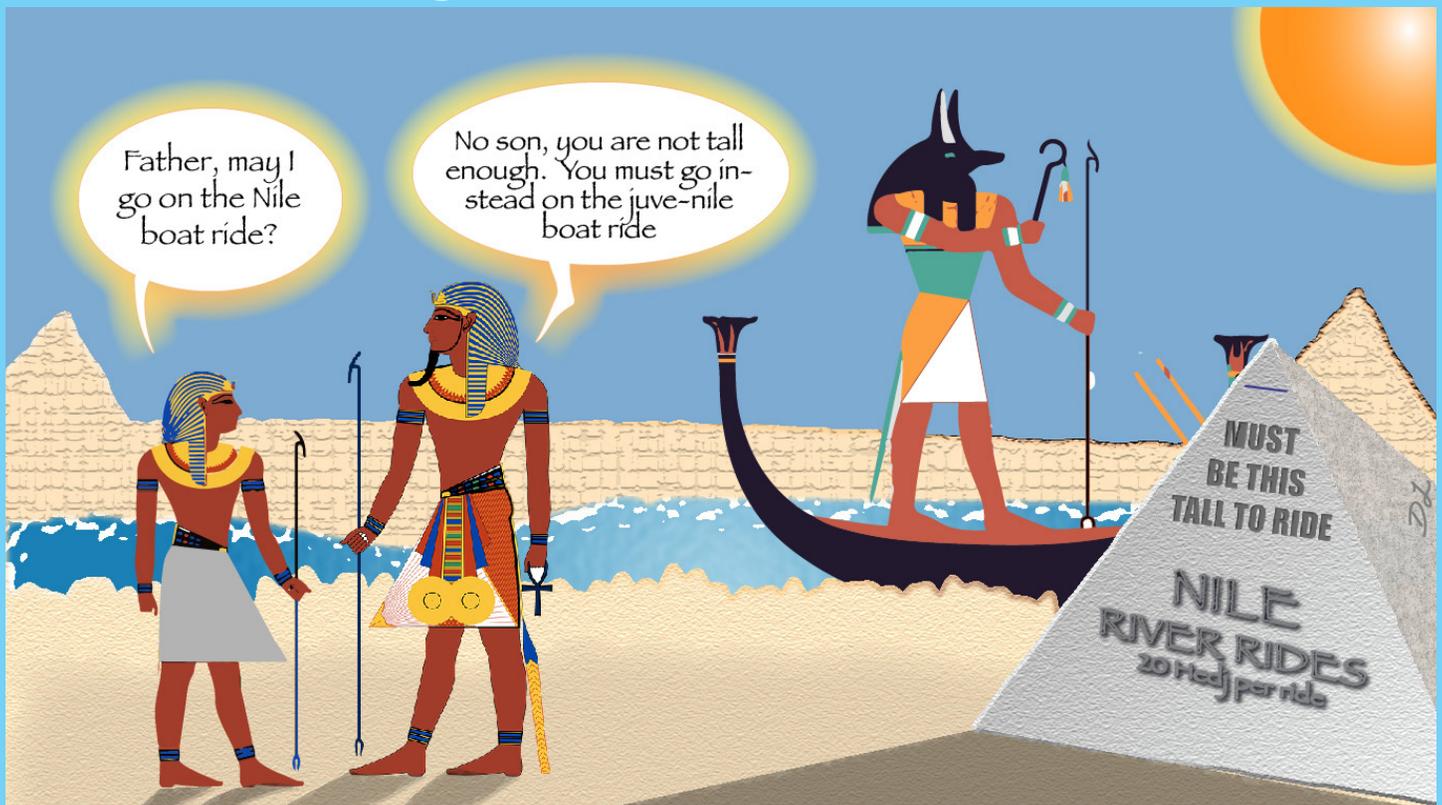


on winter break, we took the opportunity for unusual programs. Go Karts, mini golf, ice

skating and a pet store! In several different cities!

# PICKLE JEWS

**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP**



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

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto: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.



# #190 Israelly Hard

Hi Rabbi,

Israel is really important to me and my family. But someone just asked me why I don't move there, saying all Jews are supposed to live in Israel. I wasn't sure what to answer! Are Jews supposed to live in Israel? Is it just there as an option? I would appreciate any clarification you could give.

Thanks,  
Holly Landman



Dear Holy Land,

I'm writing this answer on the plane. You've convinced me. I'm moving!

You don't believe me, huh? With good reason. I'm still right here in the US of A. Why have I chosen to live outside of Israel? This is a really complicated question and I'll do my best to shed some light. First, some facts.

**Fact 1:** The Torah says the words, "You shall dwell in it." Many authorities count this is as one of the 613 commandments in the Torah, a mitzvah for every Jews to settle in the land of Israel.

**Fact 2:** Many great people over the generations have sacrificed much to live in the land of Israel. At times, it has been dangerous and difficult to get there, and even harder to live there. Yet they gave up comfort, large Jewish communities and basic amenities

to live in our holy land.

**Fact 3:** Many more people, including some of the greatest Jews in history have chosen NOT to live in Israel. The majority of talmudic sages lived in Babylonia, despite the fact that it was possible (though difficult) to travel and settle in Israel. For hundreds of years, scholars from Rashi to Rambam, the Chofetz Chaim to the Baal Shem Tov have lived all over the world. There have been few great leaders before the 20th century who have advocated for mass aliyah (aliyah literally means "going up" and it refers to moving to Israel).

Now that we see these facts, what is the answer? There are a few basic ways to interpret the law:

**A.** There's a Torah obligation for every Jew to live in Israel, and unless you are completely unable to survive there, you've got to make it work (it was truly that hard to survive there for hundreds of years, but it doesn't seem likely that still applies to the modern, comfortable country Israel has become).

## REGISTRATION HAS OPENED FOR CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2022!

**DATES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR 3 CAMP SESSION OPTIONS!**

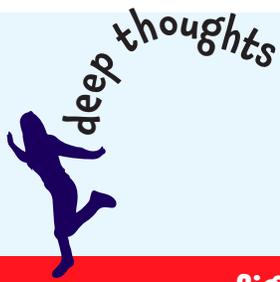
1. UTAH CAMPUS FEATURING SPORTS, NATURE, FRIENDSHIPS & CREATIVE SPECIALTIES,
2. TRAVEL CAMP OPTION, OR
3. FULL NAGEELA HYBRID EXPERIENCE!

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DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

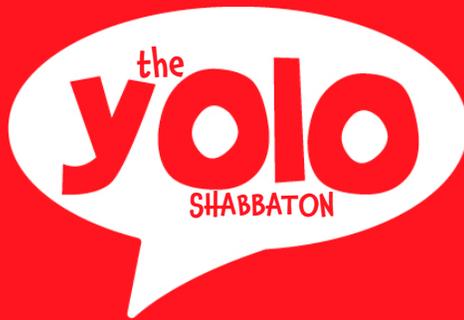
DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2022 and see photos from 2021 at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)



# TURTLES ARE NOT ABLE TO HAVE SLEEPOVERS

Sign up is now OPEN for



An amazing weekend experience for girls and boys grades 4-8  
January 7th-8th

Featuring a trip to



A Shabbaton is a weekend sleepover event featuring tons of games and activities, delicious food and a Saturday night blowout trip! Event begins Friday at 3:30pm and ends Saturday night at midnight. We will be administering COVID rapid tests to all participants upon arrival. Sign up by Jan 3rd at [nageelawest.org/events](http://nageelawest.org/events) For questions or more details, contact [info@nageelawest.org](mailto:info@nageelawest.org)



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B. There's no obligation at all. The mitzvah existed during temple times, but is no longer required.

C. It's one of those mitzvos that you don't HAVE to do, but you get credit for doing.

D. Jews pretty much should live in Israel unless they qualify for one of the exceptions, like financial difficulty, Torah study or a similarly important need.

I am not going to render a halachic decision. If you want to know if YOU should move to Israel, you should speak to your own local competent Rabbi. However, there's one practical take-away I would like you to get from this conversation. Living in Israel should always be on the table. You may have a really good reason for living in America or Afghanistan, but that reason has to be real and should be a discussion. Me? I like American pickles wayyy better.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Brian Berko  
Sydney Warnick  
Raphael Berrebi  
Brandon Minkowsky  
Mia Goldberg  
Adam Berman



What do you call a kids show about a Jewish girl archaeologist?

Tora the Explorer

OUCH! GROAN!  
Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

**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.



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