

Chayei Sarah 5781
November 13, 2020

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 5 EPISODE 5

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



The Badness Index

by Rabbi Dani Locker

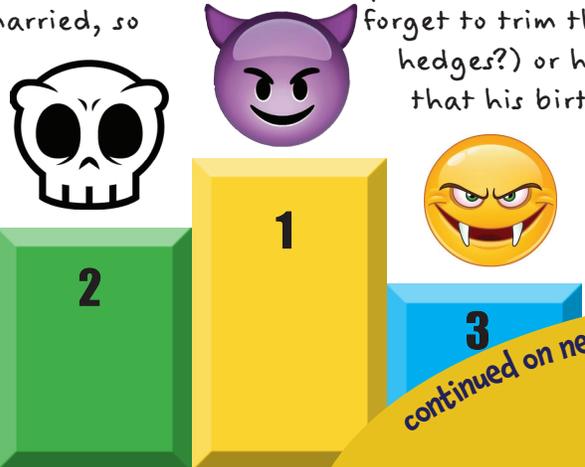
Who do you think is the most evil villain in history? Voldemort? Sauron? Papa Smurf? Thanos? Pharaoh? Haman? Black licorice?

I searched this question online and someone suggested God in the Torah. Hey, if you're that person, let's grab a coffee and talk about it. The truth is that evil comes in many shapes and sizes.

Reading through this week's Parsha, I found something to be very confusing. Abraham wants his son Isaac to get married, so he sends his trusted servant and student, Eliezer to scout out a good wife for him. He gives very specific instructions that he

should go to Abraham's relatives in distant Charan, rather than giving any thought to the local girls. OK. Here's where it gets interesting. He makes Eliezer take a sacred vow specifically not to choose Isaac a wife from the local, Canaanite nations. This sounds a little extreme. He already gave the instruction to look in Charan. It would appear that Abraham either really, really, really did not like his neighbors (did they play music too loud, or

forget to trim their hedges?) or he felt that his birthplace would be the



Henderson	4:15
Las Vegas	4:15
Reno/ Tahoe	4:27
Irvine	4:31
San Diego	4:33
Oakland	4:40
Park City	4:51
Scottsdale	5:07

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 for details

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source of wonderful people. Which one was it? I'll give you a hint. God had instructed Abraham to leave his homeland and travel to Canaan, at least in part because the people of Charan were a terrible influence! So assuming both locations were pretty low on the character scale, why were the Canaanite better to have as neighbors, and the Charanites better to marry? Don't tell me that Abraham's relatives were better than the average resident of Charan. Besuel and Laban were really rotten dudes!

I'm not here to tell you what kind of evil is the most nefarious, egregious, flagitious, heinous, atrocious, villainous, repugnant, maleficent or badder. Yet there is a difference between different types of evil. The evil of Canaanites was based on character flaws. They were immoral, not because of an incorrect belief, but because they were bad people. Abraham's relatives in Charan were terrible, but their evil was due to thought. They believed wrongly and acted based on those

beliefs.

When it comes to living near someone, it's really dangerous to spend time around people with twisted beliefs because they might influence you. When it comes to raising your children or grandchildren, though, things are different. Isaac was not going to live with his in-laws. The question Abraham was concerned with was, "Will the grandchildren inherit negative character traits?" This led him to choose Charan over Canaan. You see, the world is not just divided into heroes and villains, good deeds and the other thing. Sometimes it's worth examining, "When I make mistakes, what is causing them? Are they because my thought process was incorrect, was it because I really wanted to enjoy something? Did I not think at all?" This beautiful lesson we learn from Abraham. There's so much we can learn about ourselves that will help us improve, if we figure out the things that drive us.

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COMING THIS WEEK

- SUNDAY- Orange County Beach Event
- SUNDAY- San Diego Beach Event
- MONDAY- Las Vegas Crafts Event
- MONDAY- Encino/ Tarzana Ice Cream
- WEDNESDAY- Park City Challah Bake
- THURSDAY- LA Meeting



Abby Klein
Mavtal Cohen
Aviva Hafter
Moshe Rast
Shoshana Sefia
Jonah Arazi



There's a furniture factory hiring people to inspect their mirrors.

Now that's a job I can see myself doing!

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

deep thoughts



WHY ARE THERE 5 SYLLABLES IN THE WORD „MONOSYLLABIC?“

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.



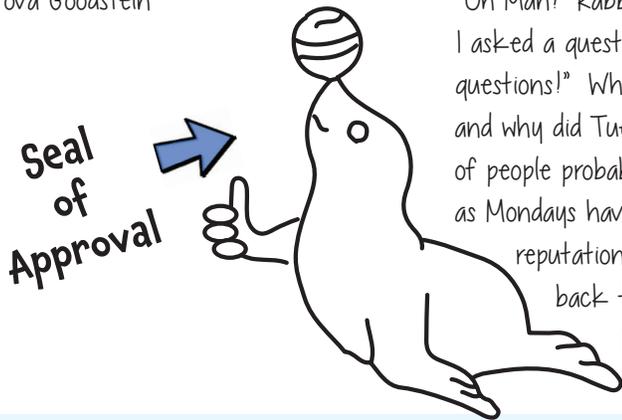
#147 Seal of Approval

Hi Rabbi,

When the Torah tells us about the first days of creation, it says, "And God said it was good," each day. On the third day, it says it twice! Why is Tuesday extra special? Why does it deserve a double 'good' when all the other days just got one?

Thanks,

Tova Goodstein



Dear Good Goodstein,

Taco Tuesday! God must have known about Taco Tuesday when He created the universe. Or perhaps there's another reason, hmmm. Let me think. JK. Thinking is overrated. I'll just type instead.

I want to make one slight adjustment to what you said. "Ki Tov - It was Good" does not appear in all of the days of creation. Monday is left out! "Oh Man! Rabbi, what are you doing? I asked a question, and now I have two questions!" Why was Monday snubbed, and why did Tuesday get double? Lots of people probably feel this works, as Mondays have a really, really bad reputation, as the 'back to school, back to work' day. But since Monday wasn't really the

beginning of the work week until pretty recently, that's probably not what the Torah had in mind. Let me add a perspective. The Torah is not saying, "And God saw it was good," for each DAY of creation. It was project based. Every time a very important project was completed, God gave his stamp of approval.

Day 1: God saw the light was good. That makes sense. Let's move on.
Day 2: God separates between the upper waters and the lower waters. That job didn't finish. It was still under construction until...
Day 3: All the water gathered into the oceans, lakes and rivers. Now the water cycle is all set up to create a fertile and vibrant world. NOW God says that Day 2's project is complete and it was good. But wait, there's more. God

REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR
CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2021 IN
JEWTAH

3 WEEKS, SPORTS, HORSEMANSHIP, NATURE,
FRIENDSHIPS, CREATIVE SPECIALTIES, WATER
SPORTS, JEWISH PRIDE AND EXCITEMENTS!



DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at nageelawest.org

Stump the Rabbi; continued

created vegetation, trees and all the stuff that your parents force you to eat. That's a new project, and it gets the seal of approval as well. So we end up with 2 'good' labels on day 3.

Day 4: Sun, moon, stars. Good.

Day 5: Birdies and fishies. Good.

Day 6: This is an interesting one. God creates all the animals and also all the animals (I have no idea why I wrote that - as I said, thinking is overrated). God says that is good. Then He creates people and God says... ummm... [insert

cricket's audio clip here]

Well this is awkward. The animals get a gold star for being good and what do people get? No seal of approval? This actually fits in really well with what we've been saying. The GOOD label gets stamped at the end of a project. The planets are done. Made. Good. The animals are what they are, and God approves. The project of humanity is still a work in progress. God did not complete us. He made us flawed and imperfect, requiring the experiences of thousands of years to keep working on ourselves. Yet,

and the very end, God says about the entire universe, "It was VERY good." People, as imperfect as we are, make the whole creation valuable and worthwhile. Without us, it would all be kinda pointless. As Yogi Berra said, "Thank you for making this all necessary."

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



OUR ANCESTORS



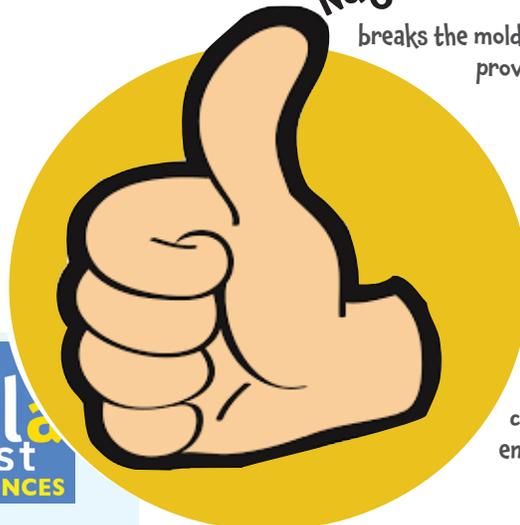
MAZEL TOV!



Mazel Tov to Camp Nageela West long time office manager/ photographer Shmuel Jacobs upon his engagement to Chana Nerenberg!

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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