

# nageela

## Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 14

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HAVE A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

# DVAR TORAH

It's a theme throughout Jewish history. When the Jews get along with each other, everything turns out fine. When there's fighting, hatred or unnecessary

division, not so much. The story of this week's Torah portion (and the previous two) is a great example. At the beginning of our saga, the animosity between the sons of Jacob was terrible. Not only the hatred toward Joseph, which led very obviously to negative actions. We are told that the ten older brothers didn't even get along with each other. The sons of Leah were unkind and derisive to their half brothers, being the sons of lesser wives. The older brothers would refer to the others as slaves. Not exactly friendly banter between bros.

However, by the time our story climaxes, Judah is willing to risk his life for his youngest brother, and they all showed great concern for each other- and remorse over what they had done to Joseph. They were willing to stand up for one another. But the Torah takes it a step further. When Jacob finally makes the long journey down to Egypt (stopping at all the Tesla

## Jewnity by Rabbi Dani Locker

Supercharger stations, of course), he is joined by all of his children, grandchildren and even a few great grandchildren. The Torah says there was a total of seventy people. But it doesn't actually say seventy people, it says seventy souls. Actually, the precise words the Torah says is "seventy soul." Singular. Soul. According to the 16th century scholar Rabbi Shlomo Ephraim Luntschitz (better know by the name of his commentary, Kli Yakar) the singular term 'soul' points to this idea that the entire family was now united. They had come to respect and appreciate one another, and were truly behaving like one person.

There are many examples in our historic timeline that point to our unity (or lack of it) as an important factor in our successes and failures. At Mount Sinai, one of the landmark moments in our development, the Torah again uses the singular ("And [he], Israel camped at the base of the mountain."). When Haman lobbied for our destruction, he told the king, "There is a nation spread out and divided among the nations." The division he was alluding to was



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our own internal squabbles. Esther's solution to the problem is hinted at in her instruction to Mordechai, "Go gather all the Jews." The way to succeed against Haman's plans was for the Jews to regain our unity (Rabbi Yehonasan Eibschutz). Unfortunately, there was

also a time when our differences and our hatred grew so strong that it caused serious disaster. According to the Talmud, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem (the 2nd one) was destroyed and our people thrown out of our land because we could not get along. The hatred and divisiveness that existed between different groups of Jews and individuals was too great and we did not deserve the blessings of God's presence. Has that changed? It can be pointed out that since the Holy Temple has not yet been rebuilt, and the Jewish people haven't miraculously returned to our homeland, it hasn't changed all that much. If the problem was solved, wouldn't God have brought us all back?



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

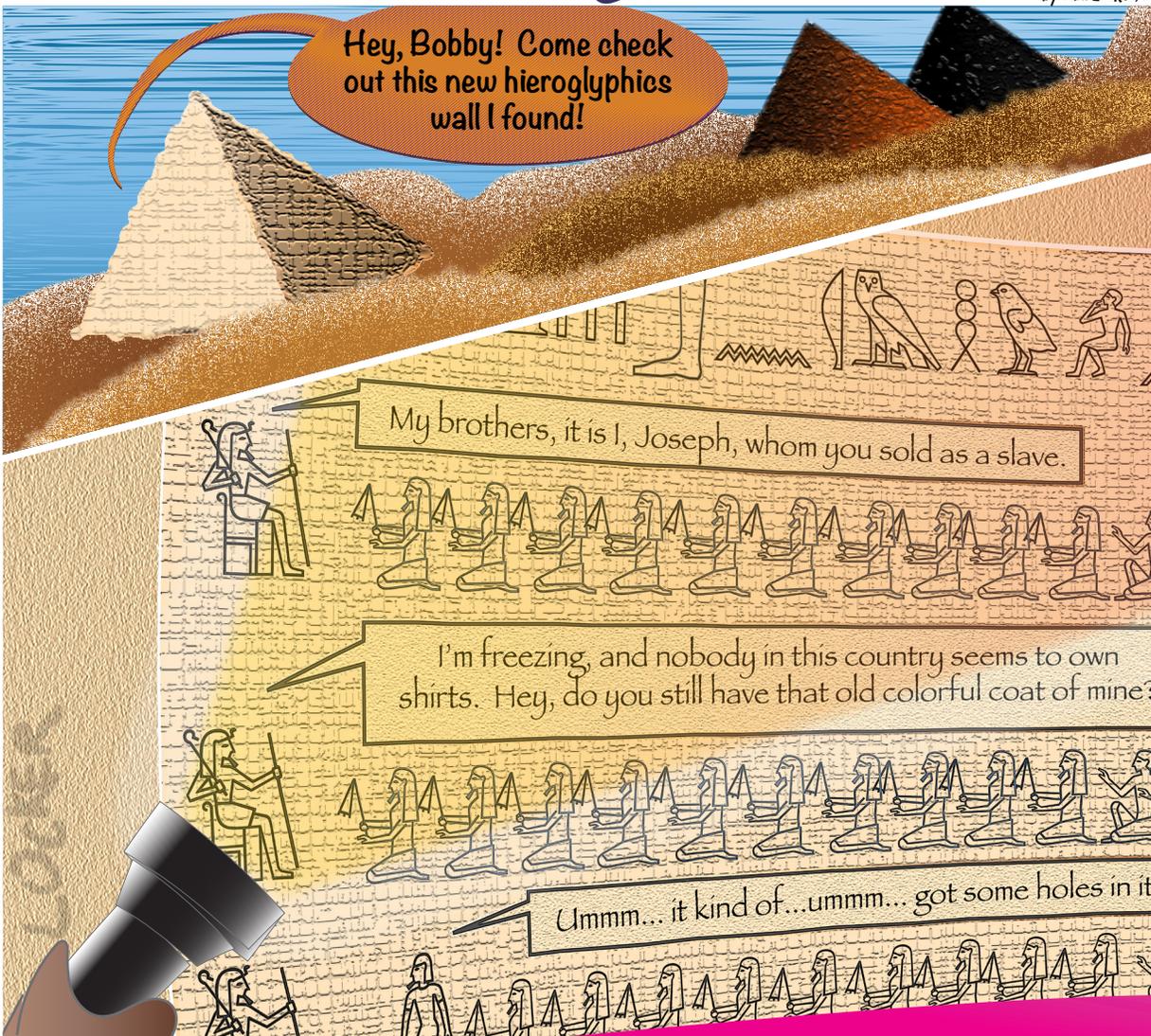
There we have all the facts. Assuming we want good things to happen to our nation, one of the best ways to get on that train is to become closer

to one another. That happens through mutual respect. That happens through kindness. That happens through appreciation of one another's differences.

# PICKLE JEWS

## GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 20



### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHICH TEN BROTHERS WERE ALL NAMED AFTER THE SAME PERSON?

**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](mailto: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,**

**#226**

## **DIVINE DICTATORSHIP**

**It's not fair! God is a dictator! We all know that having dictators, tyrants, or any authoritarian government is bad for the people. So why does God rule absolutely, giving us no choices in the laws? That sounds unjust.**  
Thanks,

**Demitry O. Cracy**

**Dear Dem O Cracy,**

You seem very sincere about wanting everything to be fair, so let me give you this example. Ms. Adam's class was very excited about her new plan. She was fresh out of college and had ideas about giving students complete control over the classroom. This is why, one bright Monday morning in September, she sat down with her Kindergarteners for what would forever be known in the lore of McDowell Elementary school as a dark, dark day. Katie decided that lunch should be before morning snack, because she liked her lunch food better. So they made that a rule. Edward wanted there to be a lot of music in the classroom, so the rule was created to play songs every fifteen minutes. But Marty didn't like music, so they made the rule that Edward's music would have to be played on a very low volume. But Alice was upset that the music was always too low and she couldn't hear it. So they decided that they would take turns making the music louder and softer.

Then Devan got involved and the chaos really began. Devan had a pet spider and so he made a rule that students could keep their pets with them. Sever-

al rabbits, ducks and (rather inexplicably) one llama later, Miriam complained about her allergies, so they wrote a rule into law that all animals had to stay in their owner's backpacks, except the llama, which would have to stand in the corner near the stereo. Rebecca wanted to create hand- cleanliness spot checks, and Joe wanted to add cootie checks to that. It was decided that they would share the duty, using a magnifying glass, and carrying hand sanitizer tubes. And don't even get me started on what happened once they started discussing what books to read, how often, and whether or not Ms. Adam should use funny voices or not. Then Jessica suggested (and it was quickly ratified) that the teacher had to give out candy. Constantly.

I could go on, but you get the point, I hope. The truth is, governing by common agreement isn't always a great idea. In modern times, democracy has become very popular. That's not because it's a good system (no country has yet

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DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2023

**194**

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2023

# DEEP THOUGHTS

## ALL SKIING IS WATER SKIING

found the right version of democracy, anyway). It's the least bad system. You might think the Kindergarten example is an exaggeration, and well, maybe it is, a bit. But people can't ever agree on what they want, and even if they do agree, it's often not the best thing for them. The reason we like democracy for government is that having a king who can make up whatever rules he wants, or a military dictator who controls the government by fear- these are truly disastrous options. Centuries of inequality, religious persecution and flat-out despotic rules have taught us that we should be really nervous about putting one person in charge. Any democratic system, if it's implemented properly, should at least prevent serious injustice.

That's because monarchies and dictatorships are ruled by flawed, human, petty PEOPLE who are selfish, and are corrupted by power. The BEST system would be to have a single ruler, who is: **SO SUPER SUPER SMART** that this ruler always makes the right decisions. **SO SUPER DUPER CARING** that this ruler wants only what's best for the people **SO POWERFUL, RICH AND CON-**

# HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

**ADAM BERMAN**  
**SAM LIPKE**  
**TAL HIRSH**  
**ALEC MILTON**  
**ISRAEL SLOMIANSKI**  
**YOSSI KOPPEL**  
**ARIELLA MAHGREFTEH**  
**PEYTON SCHWITTERS**

READ OVER 250 EPISODES  
 IN OUR ARCHIVES BY  
 SCANNING THE CODE  
 BELOW



## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

THE TEN SONS OF BENJAMIN WERE ALL NAMED FOR THEIR UNCLE JOSEPH. NONE OF THEM WERE ACTUALLY NAMED JOSEPH, BUT THEIR NAMES HINTED TO HIM. FOR EXAMPLE, BEGHER MEANS FIRSTBORN, IN HONOR OF JOSEPH WHO WAS THE FIRSTBORN OF THEIR SHARED MOTHER. THE NAME ARD HINTS TO JOSEPH GOING DOWN TO EGYPT.

**FIDENT** that this ruler cannot be motivated by bribes, special-interest groups, lobbyists, or personal gain.

If only we could think of a ruler who has these qualities... oh wait, we do... it's Ms. Adam!

Seriously though, God can be a 'dictator', dictating to us what to do because God ACTUALLY is always right about what is best for us. BTW, even though God dictates all the rules, there are actually a number of instances where He gave certain decision making power to the judges and sages of each generation.

Did you ever wonder why Roman dictators always had terrible haircuts?

It's because their barbers were bad at working with caesars!

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*The Rabbi*



### WIPE OUT ANTISEMITISM

JAN 8TH, 2023

SKI AGAINST HATRED WITH PARK CITY NCSU



LOLZ

**DID YOU KNOW THAT IRELAND HAS THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL CITY?**

**YUP. EVERY DAY IT'S DUBLIN.**

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