

have a Nageela Shabbos

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:42
N.Lake Tahoe 4:54
San Diego 4:56
Los Angeles 4:58
Tarzana 4:59
Scottsdale 5:34

Season 3
Episode 17

Hall of Fame Nation by Rabbi Dani Locker



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This week, Mariano Rivera, who pitched for the Yankees for 19 years, was voted unanimously into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Out of 425 baseball writers, all of them had Rivera on their ballot. No other player, not even Babe Ruth, has ever been voted unanimously into the Hall of Fame. As his teammate Derek Jeter pointed out, more men have walked on the moon (12) than have scored an earned run off Rivera in the postseason (11).

Here's a proposal: What if I gave you a complete baseball team of 9 Mariano Riveras. One at every position. Would you take that team?

Iwouldn't.

Imean, it would be a cool news story, and teams wouldn't score a lot of runs, probably. But a baseball team needs diversity. You've got to have sluggers who

smash the ball to the bleachers. You need sprinters who can steal bases, run down hard fly balls and annoy the defense. You need powerful starters with stamina who can throw 100 pitches without tiring. You need the bold players who will dive for grounders, crash into walls and pick off runners. You can't have a team full of Mo.

What's my point? Do I need a point? I just wanted to talk about Mariano.

The Torah describes the Jews as a "Kingdom of Kohanim." Kohanim are the religious leaders who performed all the services in the holy temple. They would often travel the land teaching Torah, and were supported by contributions of the people.

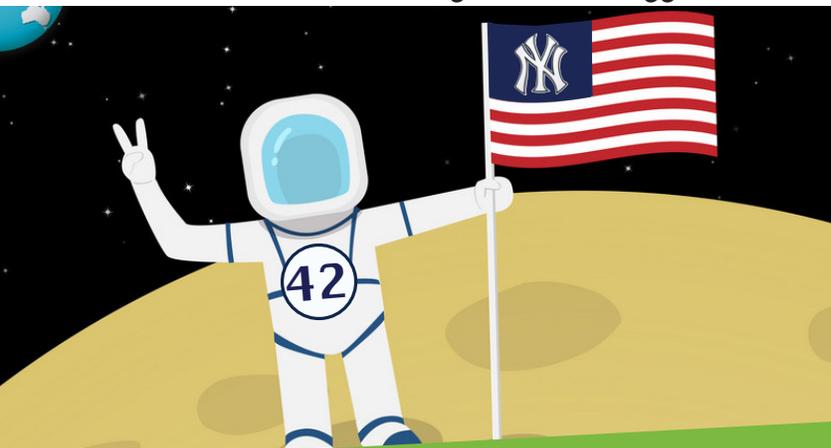
Well, that's funny. How are we a kingdom of Kohanim? The Kohanim were a tiny percentage of the people! Maybe 5%. Probably less. Why would the Torah call the entire Jewish people a kingdom of Kohanim if only a few of us were actually Kohanim?

The great Baal Haturim (that's the title of a Rabbi who lived a long time ago) explains it's because we were all built with the ability to be Kohanim. Maybe not literally, because we're not all descendants of Aaron, but all Jews

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ygelb@nageelawest.org



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have the built in ability to achieve greatness in Torah study and connection to God. This is something unique to Judaism. Torah study is not something that just the Rabbis are supposed to do. It's not the secret spiritual world of a few priests and holy men. We're a kingdom of Kohanim. Every single Jew, no matter who they are or where they come from can and should connect to Torah. Every Jew can become an expert in some part of Torah, and every Jew needs to connect to God through his or her own study and prayer; not through the prayers of any leader or great Rabbi.

So, buy a Torah book, download an interesting class, and find a prayer service that you appreciate. Find your own connection to God and to Judaism. Every Jew can be a hall of famer. Oh, and what do you call two people connecting to God together? Co-hanim!



Photo of the Week

Getting LIT

Enjoying an inspirational musical havdallah with nearly 50 Shabbaton participants at this past week's LIT Weekend!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, January 27th,
JFEST Jewish Camp
Fair in Las Vegas

January 30th- Phoenix
event

January 31st - Portland
Open House

January 31st- Locker
Live- Instagram
StumpTheRabbi

February 3rd- Super
Bowl Party

February 28th - Special
event TBA!

You Tube

Subscribe to the "Rabbi Locker" YouTube channel for weekly Selfie Torah videos, educational, entertaining and informational videos.

tinyurl.com/selfietorah

Subscribe to the Camp Nageela West YouTube channel for up to date Nageela content. www.youtube.com/nageelawest

NAG EEL ALV. ORG

Quick Fix

By Rabbi Dov Ber
Smith

Nageela LA

Did you know that Yitro, the father-in-law of Moses converted because he heard about the miracle of the Red Sea splitting? Yet everyone else also heard that but didn't convert! Why not? One of our rabbis explain that the moment Yitro heard about it and became inspired, he right away ran to the Jewish People. He didn't delay. And had he delayed he may not have become the amazing person that he became. THAT takes strength and alacrity which most people didn't have. Grab your opportunity!! Don't lose it!!!



The Jews who left
Egypt were lucky!

I'd love to have nothing
but dessert for 40 years!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Question of the Week

To this past week's Shabbaton hosts, Ahavas Torah Center, and the entire community of Henderson, NV...

Thank You

Think carefully about this one... look it up, if you think it will help... it's trickier than it looks...

How old was Moses when he led the Jewish people out of Egypt?

ANSWER ON PAGE 4



**stump the
rabbi**

**NAGEELA WEST
COAST**

**SUPER BOWL
PARTY**

FEBRUARY 3, 6:15pm

More Jea-Lousy!

Hi Rabbi,

Why are people jealous? I get jealous of people, but I don't really understand why. Is it wrong to be jealous? Maybe it's just not fair that some people seem to have better lives than others. Please help me make sense of this mess.

Thanks,

Naomi V. Oz

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.

Because this is such a big and important topic, I'll use two weeks to address it. Last episode, we discussed why people are jealous and how to avoid jealousy. In this week's segment, we'll look at why some people seem to have more than others.

Dear N. V. Oz,

Prince Gerald looked at his brother, Prince Carlos, with a tinge of jealousy. They were both being fit for the royal parade, and the tailors were measuring them for their fabulous suits of silks, gold and snakeskin. For their heads, they were each going to wear a beautiful golden crown, encrusted (I like that word, it reminds me of buttered toast) with emeralds. They would also each wear a heavy golden chain about their necks. All this was great. Here's where the jealousy started.

Gerald was a slim boy of 10, weighing just over 50 pounds. His older brother Carlos was a big man, 19 years old, well over 6 feet, and more than 250 pounds. Carlos's crown was WAYYYYY bigger than Gerald's! There was like 8 times as much gold, and more than double the

gemstones. Gerald wanted that crown. "It's completely unfair!" he fumed to himself on the night before the parade. "I should get just as much gold as Carlos!"

When the young prince voiced his concerns to his big bro, Carlos agreed immediately. "Sure. Take my crown. My chain, too! Enjoy the parade!" Gerald was thrilled, and nearly floated to the dressing room to don his new finery. After a few minutes, though, he regretted his decision. Carlos's crown was so big that it squashed his ears and fell over his eyes. And the weight was enormous. His neck was starting to ache, and the heavy chain wasn't helping things. By the end of the four hour procession, Prince Gerald needed a massage, a bandaid and definitely, a smaller crown. He was hurting so much, it felt like he'd just spent all night

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jumping at Gravady.

The premise of your question is that life should be 'fair'. That God should be 'fair'.

In reality, it's not so much about 'fair'. It's about 'good'. God is always good. He gives us exactly what we need; both challenges and gifts. They're not the same as anyone else's challenges and gifts. They're our's. They're tailor made for us. Someone else's crown might have more gold than ours, but it might give us a neck ache.

The truth is, you really don't know. People's lives are complex, and some people may have problems or needs that you can't see. A person who's very rich might be physically ill. The girl who seems to have the great grades and friends might be dealing with a tough situation at home, and the boy who's awesome at sports and is really popular might have learning challenges that make his life difficult.

God gave you exactly the life you need to achieve the most. The best for you. Don't get a neck ache by constantly turning your head to see what everybody else has.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

*mazel
tov!*

to Nageela Assistasnt Head
Counselor Aron Deutsch and his new
wife Elana upon their marriage last
week!

*mazel
tov!*

to Nageela counselor and
photographer Yoni Ghalili upon
his marriage last week!

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

to Nageela family member
Hinda Gross who recently
celebrated her bas mitzvah!



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Noa Agatstein | Shoshana Wexler |
| Nava freeman | Belle Teitelbaum |
| Matt Hollander | Devon Singer |
| Ariel Wexler | Braden Martin |

**HEY, DON'T PEEK!
THINK FIRST!**

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

He was 81 years old!
The Torah says that Moses was 80 when he first visited Pharaoh. But the plagues took almost a year, and his birthday was Adar 7, just 5 weeks before they left Egypt. So by the time the first Passover came around, Moses had already turned 81.

Answer of the Week



Nageela West 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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