

have a

Nageela Shabbos

A weekly publication of **Nageela West** Joyfully Jewish Experiences

I Have Zero Followers

by Rabbi Dani Locker

candle lighting:

Las Vegas 5:26
Los Angeles 5:39
San Diego 5:35
Phoenix 6:14

“Hello, you’ve reached Goldman’s jewelers. Ruby Goldman speaking. How may I help you?”

“Yes, I’d like to purchase the finest necklace you have.”

“OK, sir. We have a wonderful gold necklace inlaid with emeralds. It’s extremely expensive, but it is the most beautiful piece of jewelry you have ever seen!”

“I’d like to buy it, please.”

“Certainly, sir. Where would you like us to deliver it?”

“Actually, Mr. Goldman, I’d like you to hide it deep in your safe, where nobody will ever see it. I’ll come visit it once a year, only.”

“Sir. With all due respect, that’s ridiculous. Why would you buy something beautiful and then not show it off?”

Aaron the Kohen Gadol (sometimes translated as High Priest), brother of Moshe, had a very unique position. As the chief Kohen, he entered the holiest place in the universe, the inner sanctum of the Beit Hamikdash (holy temple), once per year. [More accurately, Aaron’s descendants entered the

Beit Hamikdash (which wasn’t built for hundreds of years after Aaron was gone). He personally entered the inner sanctum of the Mishkan, the temporary temple used until the Beit Hamikdash as built.] Aaaaaanywayyyy.... He wore eight special garments, featuring precious stones and gold. The Torah tells us he wore this “for honor and glory.” If that’s true, why was it only worn inside the temple, and never to press conferences or red carpet award ceremonies?

Amazingly,, the inner sanctum of the temple itself, the holiest place on Earth (sounds like a good advertising campaign) was never entered by anyone, except the Kohen Gadol, and then only once per year, on Yom Kippur. Have you heard of the Holy Ark (not the Noah kind)? A beautiful golden box with sculpted angels... nobody got to see it because it was hidden away in this special chamber and only entered once per year! Why would G-d have us make such beautiful things and keep them hidden?

The world we live in seems to think that things of value need to be shown off. The best part of getting a new phone, sneakers or game is to post it on Instagram!

People are excited to show off photos of their new babies on Facebook. A friend once told me, “If it’s not on social media, it didn’t really happen!” In reality, the most precious things are the things we keep private. Boasting of something we have is a sign of insecurity. “I need other people’s approval, so I need to display this for all to see.” If we’re truly happy with what we have, and we appreciate it, there’s no need to display it.

To be fair, it’s perfectly normal to want approval. Particularly if you’re a kid (or a kid trapped in an adult’s body - cough, cough). We want people to recognize our accomplishments. It would be an unreasonable expectation for you not to show your parents that ‘A’ you got on your report card (besides, you want that Krispy Kreme), or the amazing painting you created. Just once in awhile, try to experiment, keeping something valuable just to yourself. Not bragging about it just might make you feel even better about it.

This is the message of the Kohen’s uniform, and the message of the Holy Ark. The most precious jewels are the ones we keep locked away in a safe. 

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This week’s edition of NAGEELA SHABBOS is in honor of Steve and Lorraine Spira in gratitude for their gracious hosting of this past week’s Evening to Benefit Camp Nageela West

STUMP THE RABBI



Dear Rabbi,

I did something really dumb in class. It didn't work out so well for me. Got sent to the dean, phone call home, detention, all the good stuff. That's not really the point. The point is, I know very clearly that my math teacher does not like that to happen in her class. I know what the result will be if I do it again. Why doesn't G-d do that? Supposedly He has all these rules, but He doesn't ever actually come out and tell us, "That was a no-no. You're grounded!" Why not? How can we know what to do if we're not disciplined?

Thanks so much,

Devon Nye

Dear D.Nye

Let me tell you a story. BTW, I only make up true stories. Michael Jordan was visiting his old hometown of Brooklyn (yup, all the great people are from Brooklyn) one day in the mid 1990's. He'd already won multiple NBA championships, MVP awards, and had the all time greatest scoring average in basketball history. I was a teenager at the time, and was shooting some hoops at the local park when he passed by. I walked right up to him (yeah, I'm completely making this up, but stay with me). "Hey Michael, are you any good?" I taunted. He looked at me like I was something rather smelly (which I probably was after three hours of playing ball). "If you think you're good, why don't you prove it!" I held a basketball out to him. He lifted his two hands, and showed me six glittering championship rings. "I don't need to prove it to you." He said. "These rings are all the proof I need." This story absolutely happened, inside my head.

If you look back at history, it's filled with incredible miracles that G-d has performed, as well as very clear instructions to us about what He wants. G-d has more than adequately 'proven himself' time and again. Saving our nation from threats like

VERY PUNNY

BILL: "DOCTOR, DOCTOR I THINK I'M SHRINKING!"

DOCTOR: "WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BE A LITTLE PATIENT!"

**HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN?
EMAIL IT TO DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**

Haman. Splitting the sea, and the greatest miracle of all: the survival of our tiny nation through thousands of years of wars exiles and assimilation. He's got the rings to prove it.

Now imagine how the world would be if every time someone did something wrong a lightning bolt would instantly zap them, and every time sometime did a mitzvah a block of gold would fall from the sky (ouch). Sure, we'd act better. OK. We'd probably act a lot better, but it would not mean so much. There would be no challenge in being good, if we got instant reward and punishment.

Next time you're unclear on what G-d wants from you, just take a look in the Torah. You'll know exactly what He wants, and how to do it.. You might even see some championship rings.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

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

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

nageela week snapshot (Mar 12-March 18)

SUN	MON	THU	FRI
NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	SUMMERLIN NAGEELATTE	GREEN VALLEY NAGEELATTE	NAGEELUNCH @ ADELSON
PURIM BLOCK PARTY @ THE LOCKERS 11AM-1PM	6:45PM	5:30	12:30

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast.
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