

HAVE A

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

## DVAR TORAH

It's not usually a good idea to drive tired. A lot of cars



have a feature that if the car thinks you're tired, because your dad jokes get worse, or because you keep going out of your lane, it'll tell you to get some rest. Isn't that sweet? The car cares so much for me (cue the Knight Rider theme music). Of course, I would have no way to know about this personally. I just heard rumors that sometimes some drivers get this message. I noticed something interesting, though. It says "Warning, rest suggested." It has an icon. The icon should show a bed, or a pillow, or ZZZs. That's not what it shows. It shows a coffee cup. That's not the icon for 'rest,' is it?

That's basically what happens in the week's Parsha. Esav stumbles home after a hard day of being a bad-die, and he smells Jacob's home-cookin'. He says, "Give me the very red stuff because I'm \_\_\_\_\_."

Can you fill in the blank? "Give me the very red stuff because I'm hairy." No that wasn't it.

"Give me the very red stuff because I'm hangry?" Getting warmer.

*As our family in our homeland continues to struggle for our very existence, we dedicate any learning or inspiration gained in this publication to the merit of protection for the hostages and members of IDF.*

Hangry or Hired  
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Esav  
actual-

ly says, "Give me the very red stuff, because I'm tired." Was Jacob really brewing coffee, not lentils? Why does Esav's tiredness have to do with anything? Hangry would make more sense! Or 'hired' (hungry and tired). Why does the Torah mention that Esav wanted to eat des- perately because he was tired?

Self-control is hard. There are times when it's easy to do the right thing. But there will be days when it's just so difficult to overcome your anger, your jealousy, your impatience. Sometimes you want to say, "I was good for like a month. I just need a cheat day. Can I be selfish or materialistic or dishonest or vindictive, JUST this once? When we are trying to grow into better people, it's a constant uphill battle. Our very natures (and our yetzer hara) pull us in the direction of laziness and complacency. If we're not CONSTANTLY working to improve, we slide down the very long slip-n-slide to disasterville.

continued on two, too.

won from page one

Esav was saying, "Hey, I know I should have patience and self control right now. I should choose the spiritual life of the priesthood over the immediate pleasure of Jacob's cholent. But I am just so tired. I'm tired of always trying to get better. I want to take the easy path."

This is why Esav did not deserve the blessings of Isaac. He wanted the easy way out and was not committed to doing whatever was necessary to do the right thing, whereas Jacob was always working to improve himself. Just look at their names. Jacob comes from the word 'eikev' or heel. Jacob is always walking, moving, journeying. Our journey never quite ends. Esav comes from the word 'asui', made or maybe better, 'done.' Esav's attitude is "I'm good. I'm where I need to be. Don't need to grow anymore." Though he certainly didn't need to grow any more hair, he probably should have worked on being less hangry, and challenged himself to become the awesome person he had the potential to be!

# QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHICH PERSON LISTED IN THE TORAH HAD THE MOST SONS?

**NO CHEATING!**  
Think before you look at the answer on page 6!

# LOLZ

WHAT DO YOU CALL A JEALOUS WASP?

A WANNA BEE!

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG](mailto:DLCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG)



PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker 2023

#255

# Is God a Gossip?



## stump the rabbi

StumptheRabbi

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,

Lashon Hara is supposed to be bad. We're never supposed to say negative things about people. So why does the Torah tell stories about things that people did wrong? Isn't that lashon hara?

Thanks,

Talia O Ellis

Dear T.O. Ellis,

What an insightful question! You're right that we're not supposed to speak negatively about people, and you're also right that the Torah tells us things that seem to be lashon hara. Surely God follows His own rules! So what's the deal?

The answer is a fairly simple concept, but very difficult to apply, so it's time to put your thinking cap on. If you don't have a thinking cap, I can send you a link to a very reasonably priced one on Amazon. If you have a little extra time, you can get a better deal on thinking caps made in China.

Think about this: If your friend is about to give his credit card info to a scammer, what should you do? On one hand, it would certainly be lashon hara to tell your friend that Bill over here is trying to cheat him. On the other hand, you have the ability to stop someone from getting hurt, don't you have a responsibility to help him out?

**YES!**

Here's the idea: It is OK to speak negatively about someone if it's for the purpose of helping someone.

Wait, so does that mean I can rat someone out if it'll get me out of trouble, or if it makes me feel better,

or if someone is paying me to do it?

**NO!**

There are seven conditions that need to be met in order to be allowed to speak lashon hara for someone's benefit. I'll give you a general sense of what they are, and I'll also explain how they apply to the Torah speaking about people's mistakes. In the TREE STUMP segment I'll give more details on the 7 conditions.

Basically, if you know the info to be absolutely true, you have no other way to stop your friend from being hurt, and you are really doing it for the right reasons, then it's the right thing to do.

### THINKING CAP



There's a story recorded in the book of Joshua, where a certain guy named Achan took stuff he wasn't supposed to, and because of that, the Jewish people were not as successful in battle. Joshua asked God who was responsible, and God refused to tell him saying, "Am I a gossip?" So clearly God cares about

not staging lashon hara even against people who do things wrong. Yet, the book of Joshua tells us his name! That's because it was important enough for God to teach us a lesson.

Every story the Torah tells is one that we need to learn from. The Torah doesn't just tell us history. We know that God knows the truth of the stories first hand.

*turn for page four*

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DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2024

257

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2024

We know that God only intends for our benefit and not to hurt anyone, and God certainly knows the best and most effective way to get a message across. So remember, whenever you read a story in the Torah about something negative someone did (and there are a whole lot of those), that these stories are there for your benefit!

**Have a Nageela Shabbos,**

*The Rabbi*

## **PARTIAL PARTIA**

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're thinking about including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Please give us feedback!

### **PARSHAS TOLDOS**

- Isaac marries Rebecca when he's 40. Remember that. It may be on the test later.
  - At first Rebecca has trouble having children, so they pray.
  - Rebecca becomes pregnant with twins. However, her insurance doesn't allow ultrasound, so doesn't know it's twins and she is confused that her kid seems to have a split personality.
  - She goes to seek divine advice, and is told that she doesn't just have two kids inside, but two whole nations that will always be in competition, yet the older will serve the younger. As the youngest child in my family, that makes me happy.
  - As soon as the boys are born it's clear how different they are. Esau comes out first. He's hairy. The younger one is called Jacob because he's grabbing his brother's heel, trying to get ahead.
  - The kids grow up, and Esau becomes an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, skiing, mountain biking and the occasional murder. Jacob is a scholar who stays indoors, studies and probably doesn't have much of a tan.
  - Isaac develops a special affection for Esau, either because he's a good cook, or because he pretends he's righteous. Rebecca understands that Jacob is the one.
  - When their grandfather Abraham dies, Esau finally goes off on a truly evil rampage. When he returns from his day of debauchery, he's hungry (and tired- see this week's Dvar Torah) and trades his rights as first born to get
- Jacob's cholent (and bread- people always forget to mention the bread).**
- There's no food, so guess where Isaac and family goes? To the Philistines! No relation to any other groups with similar names. Isaac is extremely successful in the Philistine land, but his relationship with the people was the pits. Literally, they kept fighting over pits. It didn't go well. They kept fighting over wells. Isaac keeps digging wells like Stanley Yelnats, and the Philistines keep filling them in like... i dunno, like people who fill in wells.
  - When Esau turns 40, he decides to get married to a bunch of women who were the pits.
  - Isaac's vision fades, and the same insurance company won't allow him to get Lasik.
  - Not knowing how long he has to live, he decides it's time to impart his final life blessing on his children. He asks Esau, the eldest to prepare him a delicious meal so he'll be in a good mood to give the blessing.
  - While Esau is out hunting, Rebecca and Jacob cook up a plan and some goats. Jacob impersonates Esau to his blind father and gets away with the blessings that will determine the future of the Jewish people.
  - Esau vows to kill Jacob who then flees the country. Before he goes, Isaac and Rebecca instruct Jacob to look for a wife in the same place Isaac had found Rebecca, at her ancestral home in Padan Aram.
  - Oh yeah, Esau gets married. Again.

Upcoming programs, events and assorted other stuff you should know about:

mac(abee) N cheese

# MAD LIBS

DEADLINE NOV 26

a pre- Chanukah game for 4-8 graders. serious prizes. goofy story.

# HAVDALLAH! GAME NIGHT

@ the Lockers

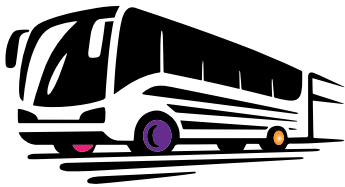
SNACK & DRINKS  
MUSICAL HAVDALLAH  
BOARD GAMES

Nov 18th  
8:00-10:00pm  
4-8 graders

RSVP is always appreciated.  
Address provided upon RSVP  
for more information, please contact Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037 or locekrd@ncsy.org

917-613-1037

- SATURDAY, Nov 18: Havdallah Game Night, LV
- SUNDAY, Nov 26th: CHAPTER WARS #3
- WEDNESDAY, Nov 29: Park City Krav Maga- Part 3
- THURSDAY, Nov 30: Israel Paint Night, LA
- THURSDAY, Nov 30: Early Bird ends for CNW
- SUNDAY, Dec 10: Shine a Light Park City



# CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2024

PREMIER JEWISH TRAVEL CAMP- AGES 9-15

\*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 16 [GIRLS]

SESSION 2: JULY 18- AUG 7 [BOYS]

OUR 15TH SUMMER!

NEW FOR '24:  
NAGEELA TASTE TEST- 6 DAY CAMP FOR 2-3 GRADERS  
NAGEELA VIP OPTION

LAKE TAHOE  
CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES  
SAN DIEGO RENO  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
BIG BEAR LAKE

215

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2024

243

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2024

# DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

People are more frightened of sharks, who kill about 6 people a year than of dogs, who kill more than 17,000 people per year.

**tree stump**



Once in a while, when Stump the Rabbi touches on a particularly complicated topic, we will expand it here in TREE STUMP, so the Stump answer stays short and sweet, but you can still get more info if you want it!

*an expanded topical discussion*

This week's Stump the Rabbi episode discusses what happens if you need to speak negatively about someone in order to rescue someone else from physical, emotional or financial harm.

THE book for understanding the rules and concepts of proper speech is called 'CHOFETZ CHAIM' and just celebrated its 150th anniversary. In the 10th chapter of Chofetz Chaim, the author (Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan, who is usually just referred to as 'The Chofetz Chaim') lists **seven conditions** that must be met in order to permit speaking lashon hara for someone's benefit.

Kind of the first pre- condition is that you have to know that your speaking this lashon hara will actually do some good. So if someone stole and hasn't been caught, tipping off the police can help get the victim paid. However, if he already returned the item, there might not be a direct benefit to the victim... he's got his stuff.

1. First hand knowledge- You've got to actually know yourself what happened. It's not good enough if you just heard from someone else.
2. Even when you see something, you must be sure that you're reading the situation right. Is it possible you misinterpreted what happened? Give the benefit of the doubt.
3. First try possibly by approaching the person and trying to quietly motivate him to change.
4. Don't exaggerate. At all. Exaggeration is literally like blowing up the universe.
5. Your intentions must be to help the victim. Not for fame, money, hatred or revenge.
6. There can't be any other way to fix the problem. If there is an alternative, try another method to fix the problem.
7. The end result of your lashon hara has to fit the crime. So if the guy stole \$100 and your lashon hara will lose him his job, that's probably not cool.

## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

The answer is Yaktan (Joktan), who is mentioned in chapter 10 of Genesis. He's the son of Eber (who was the great, great grandson of Noah. He has 13 sons listed. Jacob had only 12 sons, and one daughter.

IF YOU SAID JACOB, YOU'RE WRONG. YOU CAN STILL STOP AND THINK BEFORE READING THE ANSWER!

## HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

David Aguila  
Jonah Arazi  
Ximena Montano  
Aliyah Treizman  
Maytal Cohen  
Avi Klein

Limor Kashani  
Elian Guakil  
Aviva Hafter  
Elian Guakil  
Rebecca Carter



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