

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

Tazria 5782
April 1st 2022

SEASON 6 EPISODE 25

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



iSOULation

by Rabbi Dani Locker

“Oh, this could be a problem.”

“I know it’s a problem, doctor, I just broke my leg skiing! It hurts!”

“Yes, of course, but it could be a bigger problem. You may have to quarantine.”

“What? Quarantine for a broken leg? What’s up with that?”

“Yes, recent studies have shown that broken legs are contagious. You wouldn’t want to be hobbling along on your crutches, and have people all around you dropping with shattered fibulas, do you??”

Wait? Did this story actually happen? While I only make up true stories, and I did make this story up, it doesn’t seem likely to be true. Because. Broken. Bones. Are. Not. Contagious. Even if the injured person sneezes right on your leg. Unless they sneeze on the floor and you slip- that’s conceivable.

Gosh. This Dvar Torah just got flagged on Twitter for giving possible quarantine misinformation. I suppose that’s true enough.

Just so we all understand; some illnesses, sicknesses, syndromes and ailments require isolation and some don’t.

No, this conversation is not about Corona, lockdowns or mandates. It’s about gossip. This week’s Torah portion (and next) tells us about tzara’as, which may have been the name of an ancient Egyptian rock band, and is also a disease which looks like a skin rash; a disease which was a punishment for speaking negatively about other people. That’s a baaad thing to do. Very bad. The Torah tells us about the lengthy and complicated process of curing tzara’as, which usually included 2 weeks or more of complete isolation outside of the community. That’s pretty serious. I mean, we don’t quarantine people for stealing, breaking Shabbat, eating pork or putting



continued on next page



Candle lighting

- Honolulu 6:28
- Scottsdale 6:30
- Henderson 6:44
- Las Vegas 6:45
- Reno 7:05
- San Diego 6:50
- Irvine 6:54
- Los Angeles 6:56
- Oakland 7:14
- Park City 7:32

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continued from page 1



pineapple on pizza, though all of the above are serious offenses. Just for talking about people. That's God telling us, "This person's actions are so contagious and harmful to others that they can't be around anyone else."

gossip is so harmful they can't be around other people

What a lesson for us! Everyone has faults, and everyone makes mistakes. Yet we can all live together, despite our flaws. The only person who can't live with others is a flibbertigibbet (yes, that's an actual word for someone who gossips) and a glasgoutilator (no, that's not an actual word, but I like it anyway). A rumor spreader destroys communities, friendships, families and even people's very lives. This kind of activity is not to be tolerated in a positive society. It requires iSOULation.

So be careful how you speak (don't be a quidnunc), and be careful who you hang out with. Lift every conversation with positivity. Stop the spread! Now if only there was a tzara'as vaccine...

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MAZEL TOV!
to Nageela counselor Levi Guttman upon his engagement!

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



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.

Note: 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.

Stump the Rabbi



#201

Moooot Points

Hi Rabbi,

I go to a Jewish school and we learn Talmud a lot. A lot lot. But what I don't understand is why we often learn things that don't actually have anything to do with Jewish practice, or law. I understand learning about Shabbat or Passover, but why do I need to spend 7 months discussing what happens when one ox gores another ox? I don't even own an ox!

Thanks,
Robert Lee
(a student)



Dear (Talmud) Bob Lee,

With the tiny slip of paper clutched tightly, Marvin glanced around nervously. If he was caught with this paper, it might get taken away and he did not want that to happen. He and his partner Garvin were on a deep undercover mission, in a distant land far from their own. For sixteen years, they had worked to establish their network and they had done it with no contact from their homeland. But the King had special instructions for them, and at great risk, had a letter delivered. Just one page, because anything larger would certainly be found. Marvin and Garvin were completely dedicated to the king, and would do anything he said, and now, he had crammed years worth of instruction and information into a single page.

Reading the note, Marvin saw that it was brilliantly written. Each word was cleverly thought out, and he noticed codes, patterns and hidden meanings throughout. For the next year, the partners studied the note carefully, every day, constantly uncovering new meanings, and becoming even more impressed with their leader.

The truth is this isn't a new concept. Great authors (even the human kind) can compress tons of meaning in just a few words. Whether you're reading basic works like Shakespeare, or you've advanced to true literary giants like Dr. Seuss, you can see how much information and emotion, how many details and hints can be included by choosing a particular word, or NOT choosing a particular word. The Talmud uses the analogy that the Torah contains mountains hanging on a hair, meaning that even the tiniest detail in the Torah can teach us chapters upon chapters of details.

But it's more than that. Marv N Garv (that was their band name when they were in high school) wanted to read and reread the

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086

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA
WEST GIRLS SESSION

100

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA
WEST BOYS SESSION

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letter because it came to them from someone they appreciated, respected, even loved. We study Torah a lot, not only because we will understand its depths better, but also because it's a document written specifically for us, authored by our father and king, who we love and respect and are in awe of. We try to understand every detail, even arguing for hours over a small difference, because we CARE what God has to say to us. You might not own an ox or ever plan on farming. Yet there's great value in studying the Torah's discussions of even these topics (and the Talmud's discussions about the Torah's discussions, and the Commentators' discussions about the Talmud's discussions about the Torah's discussions), because it's God's letter to us, and we want to read and reread it until we know it

like the back of a pickle.

One more angle here. In a 2015 article in *The New Yorker*, it describes a television interview with the South Korean ambassador to Israel who said, "Each Korean family has at least one copy of the Talmud. Korean mothers want to know how so many Jewish people became geniuses." Looking up at the surprised host, he added, "Twenty-three per cent of Nobel Prize winners are Jewish people. Korean women want to know the secret. They found the secret in this book."

The study of Torah, and specifically, the intense, deep study and debate of Talmud is a serious workout for your brain. It teaches logic, critical thinking and helps with moral clarity as well. Whether you're studying a practical topic of Jewish life or a seemingly irrelevant discussion about planting mustard seeds near a beehive (for real, that's a Talmudic discussion), we get tremendous benefits from the study itself. People who have studied lots of Torah may even understand the Deep Thoughts section of Nageela Shabbos. Yeah, right.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

Mike had his Bar Mitzvah during the COVID lockdowns.

I guess that makes him a quarantine.

OUCH! GROAN!
Why do bad jokes happen to good people? Find a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



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.

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deep thoughts



"A TON" OF PEOPLE" IS LITERALLY 12 TO 15 PEOPLE

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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