

naqeela

Shabbos

SEASON 1, EPISODE 3

Have A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Naqeela West Coast

Please Hold by Rabbi Dani Locker

DVAR TORAH

"Hey, God, could you please hold on a sec? I've got a call on the other line."

"Hello, Sally?"

Yeah, I can't really talk

now. What? No, I've got someone important on the other line. What? Really? How did that happen? Ok, well tell me about it tomorrow.

Hello. God? Sorry to keep You waiting. What is it you wanted to tell me? Hmm. Moses is going to die tomorrow? Oh. I see.

I'll tell you what. Tomorrow doesn't really work for me. No, No. next week isn't good either. You see, after all Moses has done for our people,

we just can't let him go. What do you mean he's going to enter a cave and die there? We won't let him! No caves! We're going to start a Go

Fund Me campaign to ban cave entering for all."

Sounds crazy, right? I agree, yet this is pretty much what happened (or

happened, anyway).
In this week's Torah portion, God

tells Moses that it's his time to go, and that in broad daylight he must enter the cave in which he would die. Why in broad daylight? Because the people might try to stop him, saying, "Moses took us out of Egypt, etcetera (what's the Aramaic version of etcetera?), we will stop him from dying! We won't let him enter the cave!" God tells Moses to enter the cave during prime time to show that nobody can stop God's will.

What Were They THINKING?

Did they really think that they could stop God's decree?

I'm stumped.

Really, I don't have a good answer (and if you do, please come over to me or email it to me). But here's what I can see.

The people appreciated their leader. Sure, they had complained to (and about) Moses over and over and

Would you consider sponsoring an episode? I'd tell you about all the blessings & rewards you'll get, but then you might lose out on some of the merit!



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

DOING MITZVOS WITH JOY AND WITH LOVE IS CERTAINLY A POSITIVE, BUT IT'S NOT USUALLY AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT.

WHICH ONE COMMANDMENT REQUIRES LOVE?

ANSWER IS ON PAGE 4.

DON'T CHEAT, WE'RE WATCHING... HEY! STOP!

WONDERING WHEN YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE

JEWNIOR NGSY EVENTS IN YOUR CITY?

LAS VEGAS- OCT 15

PHOENIX/ SCOTTSDALE- OCT 26

ORANGE COUNTY- OCT 20

LOS ANGELES- NOV 3

PARK CITY- OCT 23

WE'D LIKE TO WISH AN AWESOMETASTIC

MAZEL TOV TO NAGEELA WEST CAMPER S **EITAN & LIEL MALKA**

WHO RECENTLY CELEBRATED THEIR BAR MITZVAHS!

over and over. But when it came down to losing Moses, they panicked. They needed him. They could not envision life without him. He was the MVP (Most Valuable Prophet). None of us will ever be as wise, knowledgeable or straight- up awesome as Moses. But we can all try to make ourselves indispensable to someone. Be a person that others can rely upon. Be a person that others can't imagine life without.

And never, ever, put God on hold.

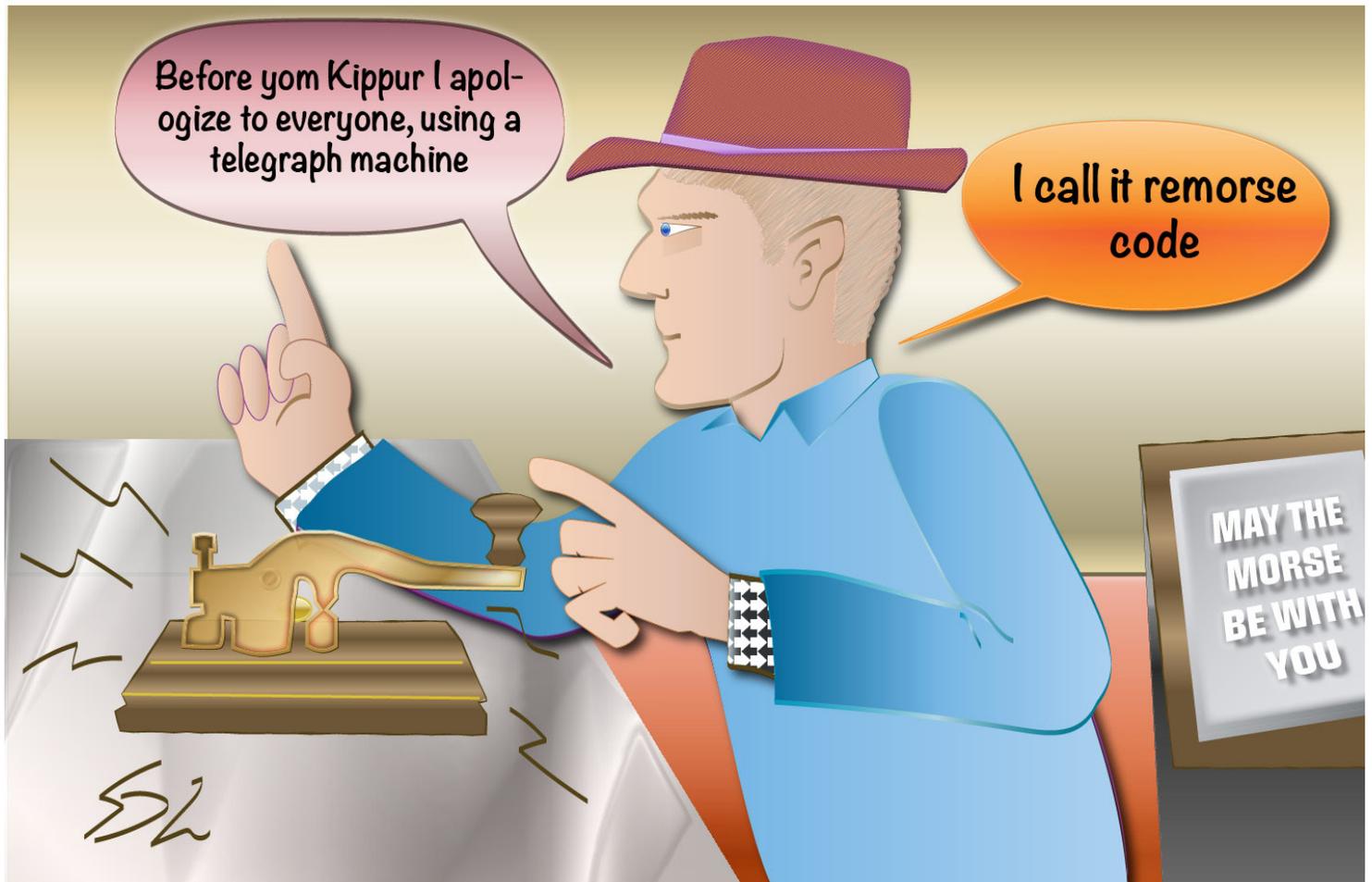
Be someone who is needed.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



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

(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.

#216

Repair Toolkit (Teshuva continued)

Wouldn't it be nice if we had a CTRL+Z for the things we do in real life? Fortunately it doesn't work that way. Yes, I said fortunately. The world would be a terrible place if our actions had no consequences. Yet, as we learned last week, there is often a way out, and we should take it. Here are a few important rules and conditions about how teshuva works. We'll do it in a question and answer format, 'cuz after all, this is stump the rabbi.



IS THERE EVER A TIME THAT TESHUVA DOESN'T WORK?

"If one says, I will sin and do teshuva, that person is not granted enough ability to do teshuva." Imagine you're a very forgiving person, and someone takes advantage of that, specifically harming you because they know you're going to forgive them. That would be a good reason not to forgive them. If a person relies on teshuva, like, "I'm just gonna live my life exactly how I want and then pray a lot on Yom Kippur and it'll all be good!" God makes it difficult for that person to achieve teshuva (not impossible, but hard). It's also just a bad idea. It's like buying things on your credit card; they tend to stack up until they're too big to pay off easily. If you don't succeed, the interest compounds and then you end up with an entire pickle factory that you can't cover the mortgage and... sorry, don't let my trauma affect you.

WHAT IF YOU ONLY PLAN TO DO TESHUVA BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY OR ILLNESS?

Many people live their lives without much thought, but then when faced with problems, suddenly turn to God. If I was God, [we would all have

unlimited pickles, and also] I would totally not accept that teshuva. Guess what? We're all lucky that I'm not God. For several reasons, I imagine. Regarding this topic it's that God promises to accept sincere teshuva EVEN when the teshuva is motivated by ulterior motives. One of the great sages of the talmud, Reish Lakish, started his career as a famous bandit. He only began his journey toward change in order to marry a beautiful woman. Yet he became one of the talmud's most respected scholars. So yes, if a person's motivation is for the wrong reasons, teshuva still works as long as it contains admission, regret and changing your ways.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HURT ANOTHER PERSON. DOES TESHUVA WORK THEN?

Wouldn't that be convenient. Just like this exchange:

"Mr. Smith, did you, on the night of the 21st, rob the bank of 184 million dollars? Remember you are under oath."

"Yes, your honor. I robbed the bank. I've admitted it, I regret it, and I won't do it again.

So I guess I can keep the money and

LOL

MY MATH TEACHER
TOLD ME I WAS JUST AN AVERAGE STUDENT.

THAT WAS MEAN.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

DEEP THOUGHTS

IF CONCRETE AND GLASS ARE BOTH MADE OF SAND, THEN SKYSCRAPERS ARE JUST REALLY TALL SANDCASTLES

no jail time. Right?"

If a person harms another person, they **MUST** make it up to the person, in addition to doing teshuva. That means if there was a financial loss, it must be paid back, and if a person was embarrassed, shamed, disgraced, disparaged, insulted, or anything else of a personal nature, they must be asked personally for forgiveness. Sometimes, if a person was injured (or worse) or if their reputation was ruined, there's really no way to make it up to them, and therefore no way to get complete teshuva. Once you open the gates on the dam, there's no getting the water back inside. There are, however, ways to work toward making amends. One example that comes to mind is the tyrannical King Herod. To make a long story short, Herod killed a lot of people including all the Rabbis he thought would oppose his monarchy (he wasn't even technically Jewish, so not eligible to be the Jewish King). He eventually wanted to repent. He was told, "You dimmed the light of the world, you must therefore increase the light of the world." He rebuilt the Holy Temple in a magnificent and grand way. That may not have been a complete teshuva toward his many horrific deeds, but partial credit is important. Which brings us to our last question for today:

ARE THERE LEVELS IN TESHUVA?

Didn't I just say there are? It is very difficult to do a complete teshuva. For example, you may have made a mistake because you had an unusual opportunity, or a sudden extremely strong impulse to make the wrong choice. The only way teshuva is 100% complete is to stand up to the same exact level of temptation (no, you should **NOT** try to recreate the temptation). That's often impossible. Nevertheless, we



We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

SHAYE JAGET
SAMUEL KATZ
TOVA FLORANS

READ OVER 240 EPISODES IN OUR ARCHIVES, SUBSCRIBE AND MORE BY SCANNING THE CODE BELOW



do the best teshuva we can do, and God works with us.

In summary: Fixing mistakes is complicated, and sometimes can take a lifetime. The keys to remember are that if we admit our mistakes, regret them, plan not to do them again and fix any harm caused to other people, we will certainly be well on our way to changing for the better. The talmud tells us that even a pure person who has never made a mistake can not measure up to the greatness of someone who changed and repaired themselves and their relationship with God.

"MY BAD!"

Have a Nageela Shabbos,
The Rabbi

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

AS FAR AS I KNOW THE ONLY ONE IS BIRKAS KOHANIM, THE COMMANDMENT FOR A KOHEIN TO BLESS THE JEWISH PEOPLE, WITH LOVE. IF THE KOHEIN DOES NOT LOVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE, THE BLESSING DOESN'T WORK.

Jew^{nior} NSU



havdallah, hot dogs, bonfire and sukkot activities

Saturday, October 15th from 8-9:30pm
4-8 graders at the Locker's sukkah - 9421 Grenville Ave.

please RSVP to lockerd@ncsu.org or 917-613-1037



www.nageelawest.org



801-613-1539