

Vayakhel- Pekudei 5781
March 12th, 2021

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5

EPISODE 21

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Lazy or Lyin?

by Rabbi Dani Locker

"I'm not lyin! There's a lion!"
These are the famous last words of nobody important, probably. Mainly because lions don't tend to hang out at supermarkets. Why am I talking about lions?

We consider King Solomon to be the wisest man who ever lived (take that, Darth Plagueis!). He became king at a young age, when his father, King David died. He ruled for many years and brought incredible peace and prosperity. He wrote three of the books in our Tanach (AKA the Bible or the old Testament) called Mishlei, Koheles and Shir Hashirim. He describes a lazy person like this: "The lazy person says, "There's a cub on the path, a lion between the roads!" (Mishlei 26:13)

King Solomon is describing the habit lazy people have

of making up excuses. If they don't want to get up and go somewhere there will always be some reason to avoid the trip. "There's a lion on the road" is the older version of "The roads are wet and I'm afraid to drive" or "I heard spinach is terrible for your health" or "I really would study for my test, but I need a really, really long snack break."

Here's the question. Is there a lion or isn't there? It's not fair to criticize the poor guy for saying there's a lion if there's actually a lion. And if there isn't a lion, then he's just lyin! The biggest criticism then should be that he's making stuff up, not that he's lazy.

One possible explanation (remember, when we



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Candle lighting

Henderson	5:27
Las Vegas	5:28
San Diego	5:36
Irvine	5:39
Reno/ Tahoe	5:45
Los Angeles	5:41
Oakland	5:55
Park City	6:11
Scottsdale	6:15
Honolulu	6:22

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read the prophetic words of wise men, there may be multiple meanings) is that there is actually a lion. Yet an unlazy person (there's got to be a better word for unlazy... but I'm not really in the mood to look it up... besides, there might be a lion on thesaurus.com)... an unlazy person will find a way! He'll download the version of Waze that shows wild animal traffic and alternate routes. Perhaps he'll climb over a fence, or borrow a jetpack from a local Mandalorian. I don't know how, but he'll make it happen.

There's an example of that in the construction of the Mishkan (which was the lego-like portable holy temple our ancestors traveled with while in the desert). Some of the wealthiest and most influential Jews at the time were the 'Nesi'im'- the twelve tribe leaders. They personally donated the precious gems worn by the high priest. Yet according to the talmud, they are criticized for being lazy. You see, when everyone was bringing donations for the temple fun, they sat back and said, "Let's let ev-

eryone donate, and we'll cover whatever is missing!" That sounds very generous to me. Yet people were so excited to give to this worthy cause, that at the end there was nothing left to donate to the building! They'd raised their goal and even had a successful bonus round! They still wanted to give, so they donated these gems. The talmud criticizes them, explaining that the right thing to do is to give right away, and not 'wait to see' what happens.

Both the story of the nesi'im and the words of King Solomon should inspire us to approach every good deed with excitement and vigor. Let's not wait and see if someone else does it first. Let's find ways around obstacles on the road. Even if there's a lion or tiger blocking the path, or a bag of popcorn just asking for our company.

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**PICKLE
JEW S**



**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

- Meir Maryles
- Darby Kankoski
- Kyle Harris
- Ledon Gabay
- Devorah Locker
- Sammy Lefkowitz
- Nicole Green
- Margot Swibel



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



#163 Raising the Bar Mitzvah

Hi Rabbi,

Do you feel that in order to be a part of the Jewish community you must attend Hebrew school and get a Bar or Bat Mitzvah? What is the minimum I have to do to be a full member of the Jewish community?

Thanks

Bartholomew Mitzvah

Dear Bar Mitzvah,

I get this type of question a lot. Let me start by saying that I believe it's super important for every Jew to have a Jewish education. The best way to do that usually is in a Jewish day school. If you live in a place where there is no Jewish Day school or you have some personal reason why you can't attend one, then a Hebrew School is a good alternative. But getting

a Jewish education, whether in a Day School or Hebrew School has nothing to do with a Bar or Bat mitzvah. These are two totally different ideas:

1. Every Jew must have a basic grasp of Jewish history, how to read and understand Hebrew and the commandments which make up Judasim.
2. There's a very wonderful custom to celebrate a Jewish child's reaching a

certain level of maturity by involving them in a public religious service, like Torah reading or the like. We call this a Bar mitzvah. Or Bat Mitzvah. Or Bark Mitzvah.

You might have noticed I did not use the word obligation when referring to B'nei Mitzvah. I said 'wonderful custom', and it is just that. Here's how I look at it.

Judaism is around 4,000 years old (if you want to Use Abraham as the beginning marker of our nation) and it wasn't until a few hundred years ago that any sort of bar mitzvah celebration was common. It's true that our forefather Isaac may have had a Bar mitzvah celebration (according to one opinion in the Midrash), but there's clearly no mitzvah in the Torah or in Rabbinic literature.

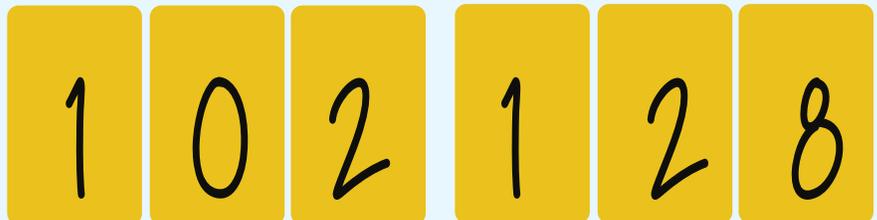
So to give a short and clear answer to your question: NO, you do NOT need to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah to be a part of the Jewish community. Not having a Jewish education is also sad, but it would not exclude someone from being considered a full Jew.

That said, I think it's a very good idea for you



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Stump the Rabbi

continued

and for all Jewish children to celebrate a Bar or Bat mitzvah. For a 12 or 13 year old to work hard studying, and stand up before a congregation, family and friends and take public responsibility as a Jewish adult- that's huuuuge! We all know that the things we

put effort into are the things that end up mattering to us and we remember best. If you were born Jewish, there's a good chance that as a young kid you probably didn't think much about whether being Jewish is important to you. Having a Bar mitzvah, affirming that commitment, announcing to the world that you are a proud Jew... these are things that will cement your

connection to Judaism into your future. As far as being a member of the Jewish community, the only requirement is being Jewish!

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

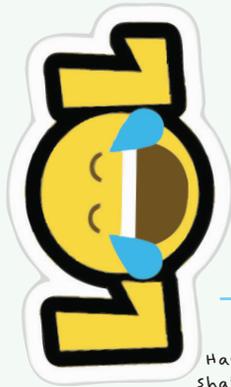


to CNW staff member Yocheved Wagner upon her engagement!

to CNW veteran camper Liam Hershko who is celebrating his Bar mitzvah this week!



DRINKING WATER THROUGH A STRAW IS THE OPPOSITE OF SNORKELING



Did you know that ants are immune from COVID-19? That's right!

It's because they have anty bodies.

OUCH! GROAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela shabbos? Just email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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