

Vayishlach 5782
November 19th 2021

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 6 EPISODE 7

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Squad Goalz

by Rabbi Dani Locker

At that moment, the car in front stopped suddenly and Papa bumped into it. He was furious. "Why that Pinheaded Fiddlebrain!" he snarled. "Name calling!" reminded Sister.

The penalty for name calling was cleaning the whole cellar, so Papa gritted his teeth and remembered his manners. And a good thing, too. Because climbing out of the other car wa the biggest, angriest bear he had ever seen!

But when the angry bear saw how polite Papa was, he remembered his manners too. He explained that he had stopped short because a mama duck and her ducklings had crossed in front of him. Then he and Papa Bear looked at their bumpers and saw that no harm had been done.

~Excerpt from The Berenstain Bears Forget their Manners

it. Stan and Jan Berenstain have taught us the secret to avoiding conflict, and creating friendships. The unwritten sequel to the book has Papa bear and his new friend, Big Angry Bear, golfing together, going fishing in Montana and posing for Squad Goalz selfies. But did the Berenstain Bears invent this idea or, perhaps, was it already hinted to in the Torah? If you picked the first choice, you should probably stop reading now.

The Torah's version of the story might have Papa Bear bowing down seven times, and get-



So there
we
have

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Henderson	4:11
Las Vegas	4:12
Reno/ Tahoe	4:22
San Diego	4:30
Irvine	4:28
Los Angeles	4:29
Oakland	4:36
Park City	4:46
Scottsdale	5:04
Honolulu	5:30

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ting hugged and kissed by his would-be antagonist. But let me take it one step further: Jacob had finally left his duplicitous (that's another word for not-so-honest) father-in-law, but now was facing the possibly bigger threat of

his angry twin brother.

Esau had come to 'say hello' to Jacob with 400 soldiers. Too many for a friendly BBQ. Esau had come to kill Jacob.

So what changed? Why did Esau end up making peace with Jacob, when he had come to harm him? Why come armed and then simply give a hug (OK, hugs are usually given with arms, but that isn't what I meant)? One beautiful answer I saw explains it based on part of the Torah's description of the story. It says, "And he bowed to the ground seven times, until he reached until his brother." Jacob was bowing to Esau in an attempt to reach the feeling that Esau was his brother. His bows were an exercise in friendship toward Esau (not unlike Papa Bear's). Jacob wasn't just trying to reach his brother, he was trying to reach feelings of brotherhood, by genuinely appreciating Esau for

who he was, flaws and all.

When you genuinely appreciate and like some-

continued from page 1
Jacob wasn't just trying to reach his brother, he one, it's pretty hard for them

to hate you. Even if they're a big angry bear who just got rear ended.

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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.



#186 Big Nostrils

Hi Rabbi,

I understand that it's not good to get angry. But I also found out there are places in the Torah where it says God gets angry. If we're supposed to be like God, and God gets angry, so why is it bad to get angry?

Thanks,

Anne Grie

Dear Angrie,

There's a talmudic quote that says, "One who gets angry is as if he worshipped false gods." Hmm, if being angry is Godly, then anger shouldn't be ANYTHING like idolatry! This is an excellent question, because there are a WHOLE BUNCH of places where it talks about God's anger.

"And God's anger will burn against you."

"And my anger will burn against you on that day..."

"And God's anger burned against Israel..."

There are dozens of more examples.

Here's the thing.

God.

CAN'T.

Get.

Angry.

Have you ever thought about the words, "losing your temper?" That actually means you become unbalanced, you lose your composure, and go outside of your normal boundaries of thought and action. That's not something that fits with God's perfection.

This is a deep insight, but if you understand it, it's powerful: anger usually comes from a feeling of inadequacy or insecurity. God has none of these things. Your actions don't change God or His expectations. Being able to 'affect' God's mood would mean He is changeable and imperfect. So. No.

So what does the Torah mean all the times it says God gets angry? Kind of the same thing as when it talks about God's hands or eyes. God has no hands, and God has no eyes (as opposed to a fish with no eyes, which is actually just a fish). It's speaking about God's actions in a way we understand. Actually, the Torah's words for God's anger are that His nostrils flared. If you watch people lose their temper, you might notice their nostrils



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enlarging (which is scientifically proven to increase the amount of fire they breathe, to reduce snoring, and to make it easier to get a COVID test). Again; God doesn't have nostrils. It's a metaphor (which is slightly smaller than a meta-fine). The way God performs justice is a way that people relate to as anger. It may seem like anger. Here's an example:

Each year on the first day of camp, I give my camper orientation. There are certain safety rules (like the no nuclear warheads rule) which I need to ensure the campers take seriously, so I lower my eyebrows, raise my voice and make it seem like I'm angry.

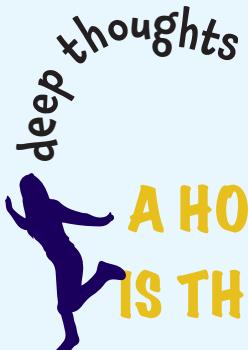
Why did Jacob hide his daughter Dinah in a box?



Find out in this week's Selfie Torah video #160



A day of skiing to raise awareness about the rise of antisemitism in America.



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Mazel Tov to Camp Nageela West staff member Shlomo Yachnes upon his engagement!



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. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

Sometimes I'll hear them say things like, "Oh man, he was angry." I'm not. I'm just acting angry. Indeed, there are times when acting angry is appropriate. Like when people serve sweet pickles, or when adults wear skinny jeans.

When trying to be like God, though, it's important that we do our best not to 'lose' our temperament, our balance. Truth is, if we realize how clearly everything that happens is because of God's enabling, we couldn't possibly get angry. Why would we get angry at what is perfect justice? Wow, is that a can of worms? Feel free to follow up with more questions! I'll leave you with that

cliffhanger... hope you're not angry at me.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



I have a horse I call Mayo...

And sometimes Mayo neighs.

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Jonah Arazi
Abby Klein
Maytal Cohen
Aviva Hafter
Idan Rosenstein

