

nageela

Shabbos

**OUR
263RD
EPISODE**

SEASON 7, EPISODE 21

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2023
nageelawest.org/summer**

HAVE A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

**DVAR
TORAH**

Digni-fried Street Food
by Rabbi Dani Locker

"That guy is absolutely out of control! He must be stopped!"
"What did he do now?"

"Well you remember that last week he pretended to be a road construction worker and shut down traffic for two hours..."

"That was ingenious but terrible. What a prankster."

"And before that, he hacked into the library's computer system and convinced it that Harry Potter belongs in the non-fiction section... oh, and canceled an entire city's worth of library cards..."

"That was troubling. I couldn't find Prisoner of Azkaban anywhere! What did he do now?"

"Now! You wouldn't believe it..."

"Try me."

"He bought cotton candy from a street vendor, and ate it. Just ate the thing."

Right in public!"

"O.M.G. How could he? I thought he had reached rock bottom, but this is new low."

Where am I going with this? Probably not to a hot dog stand. You probably

read that conversation and shrugged your shoulders metaphorically. Eating cotton candy in public sounds perfectly normal. Why would they be surprised by that?

The Talmud tells us that certain people are not believed as witnesses in a Torah court. Thieves and other people the Torah classifies as evil may not be witnesses, as we're instructed in this week's Parsha. A surprise though, is that according to the Talmud, one who eats in the marketplace is not eligible to be a witness. Why not?

Rashi explains why. Eating in public is not dignified. It's a little bit animalistic. A person who is not embarrassed to act undignified in public will not be ashamed to lie. You may be able to understand that a truly classy person wouldn't chomp into a juicy burger in public- it's fair to assume that a member of a royal family, for example, would not do such a thing. Even though we're just normal people, dignity is dignity.

I think the lesson here is amazing. What drives people to do the right thing, and what keeps people from falling into the traps of temptation and evil? It's all about how you think of yourself. If you perceive yourself as a dignified, honorable person- someone Godly, then you will be. If you think you're just an intelli-



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gent animal, then it's difficult to act better. Spend some time thinking about how amazing you are. God loves you and considers you His child. With this knowledge, you can stand up to any challenge.

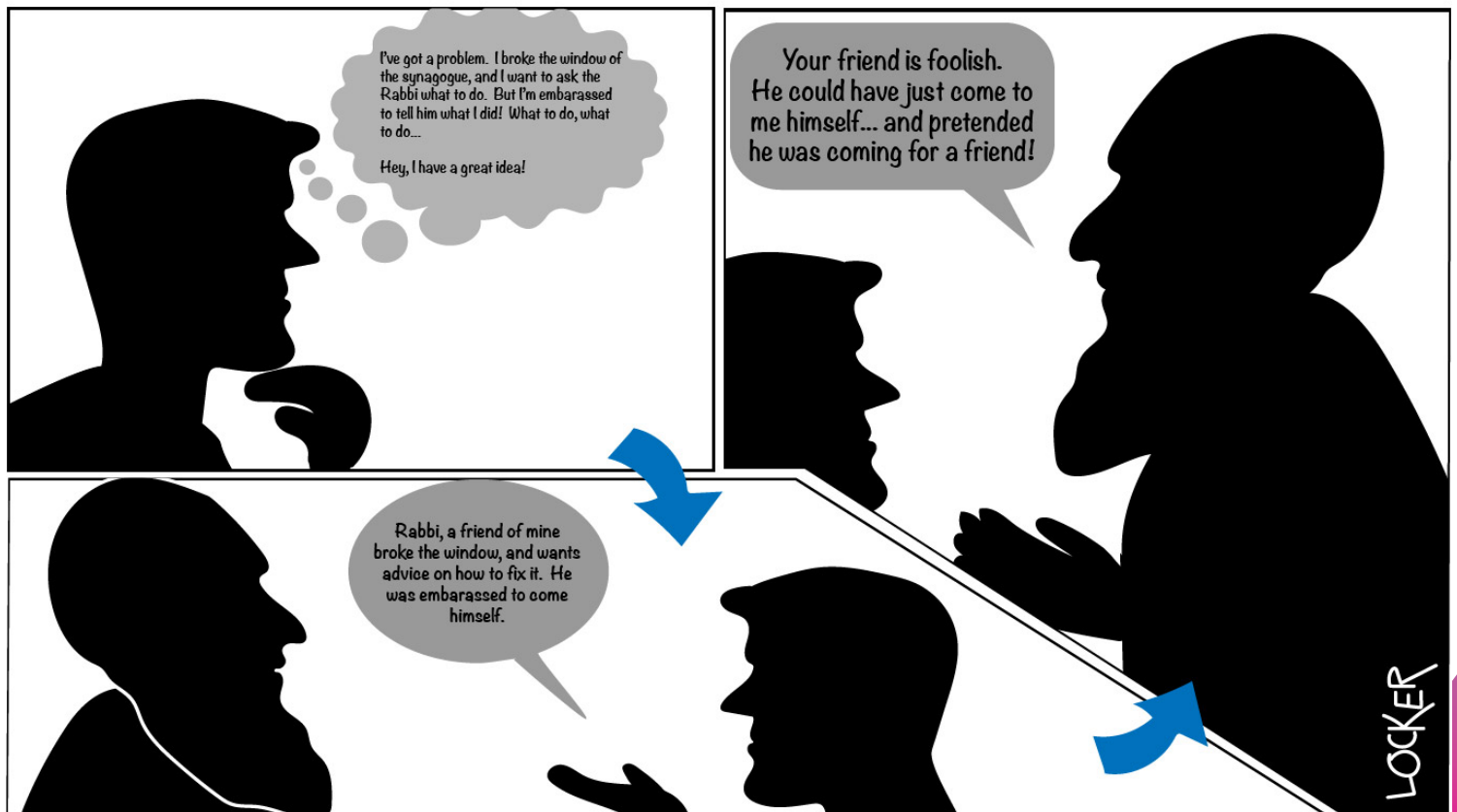
[Note: You may be wondering about this whole eating in public thing. It's become pretty accepted in modern society. In truth, that doesn't prove much, because modern society has destroyed and discredited a lot of appropriate boundaries. Nevertheless, there are many commentaries on this Talmudic statement who agree that it's OK to snack in public, but the Talmud was referring to particularly undignified method of eating. According to some, it's eating a bread meal. According to others, it means eating while walking. Some say it's only a problem if you steal the food and then eat it. It's not my job to tell you which one is right. It's just my job to make silly jokes and hope you learn something from them.]

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PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023



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.

Hi Rabbi,

#231

**Lesson B
(or Blesson)**

I know that blessings are saying thank you to God for stuff He gives, like for food and stuff. But there are also other blessings, like the blessing on lightning. I don't really want lightning, and I don't eat it. Why am I thanking God for it?

Thanks,

Bracha Brach,

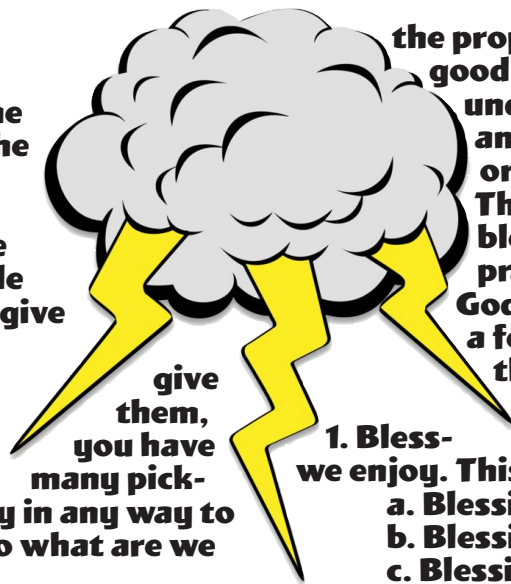
Dear Bracha,

I'll ask you two questions:

Question 1- A bear went over the mountain.. What do you think he saw?

Question 2- What is a blessing? I mean, think about it. Are we blessing God? How do simple weak things like human beings give a blessing to the being who has literally everything? When we people blessings we're wishing "May you live a long life. May healthy children. May you eat many pickles." None of these wishes apply in any way to an eternal, all powerful God! So what are we doing blessing Him?

Actually, when we make a blessing we are not GIVING God a blessing, but exclaiming and proclaiming how all blessings are from Him. As you mentioned, in a way, a blessing is a thank you, but it's more than that. Every time we bless God we are announcing our understanding of how awesome God is. When we eat food, it's appropriate to announce that we recognize it comes from Him. Not exactly thanks, but recognition. Interestingly, the Hebrew term from gratitude is "Hakaras Hatov." That doesn't mean being thankful. The translation is "Recognition of the good." In other words,



the proper response to receiving goodness is a clear and honest understanding of from where and whom that goodness originated.

Therefore, when we make blessings, we are giving praise and recognition to God's awesomeness. There are a few types of things we do this for:

1. Blessings of thanks for things we enjoy. This includes:

- a. Blessings before eating food .**
- b. Blessings after eating food .**
- c. Blessings for smelling nice things .**

2. Blessings of praise for cool things that God does to show His awesomeness. This category includes:

- a. Blessings on thunder, lightning, rainbows and other feats of Godly power.**
- b. Blessings on beautiful geological features like oceans, great mountains or canyons, fruit trees .**
- c. Blessings when meeting extraordinary people such as great scholars**

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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023**

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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023**

DEEP THOUGHTS

DO SELF DRIVING CARS NEED WINDSHIELD WIPERS? THEY'RE NOT REALLY NECESSARY.

(Torah scholars AND secular scholars. Yup, there's a blessing for meeting Einstein), kings, or people of extraordinary physical appearance (extremely tall, or extremely beautiful, for example) .

3. Blessings when we perform a mitzvah, thanking God for giving us guidance to live a better life. This category includes:

a. Blessing for lighting Shabbat candles and Kiddush.

b. Blessings for holiday mitzvot like lighting Chanukah candles, eating matzah, hearing shofar, counting the Omer, living in a sukkah, and many more.

c. Blessings on Tefillin, tzitzit, separating challah and many more.

4. Prayers. The blessings we make during prayers are similar to category 2, because they praise God for stuff, but I'd consider them their own category, because most of them combine praise, thanks and asking.

Oh, and to answer the first question. He saw another mountain.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

**ASHER HENNES
MCGWIRE PINKUS
AMI LIPKIND
LEAH RAUCH
TEHILLA GROSS
SHANE KASHANI
GIDEON PETERS
BENNETT WARNICK
ABIGAIL RIVERA**

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