

Ki Savo 5782  
September 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 6

EPISODE 43

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## Bubbles and Roller Coasters and Wax Wings

by Rabbi Dani Locker

“Well, if I had a roller coaster made of wax, I’d want to be in bubble wrap.” ~nobody

If everything I just wrote above makes any sense to you, then you’ve got a wacky brain and I don’t know how to deal with you. For everyone else, I’ll explain, kinda.

Remember how last week we wrote (in Stump The Rabbi) about reward and consequences? This week’s parsha gives us a long list of really super cool, awesome things that happen if we do what’s right. It also gives us a list of some super uncool, awful things, when times aren’t so good. Here’s one. “You will just be at the top, and not be at the bottom.” That’s a blessing the Torah gives us. That sounds beautiful. Being at the top and not at the bottom sounds wonderful. Top of a mountain. Top of the food chain. Top of your class. Top of a super- tall, super-scary freefall drop... not so much.

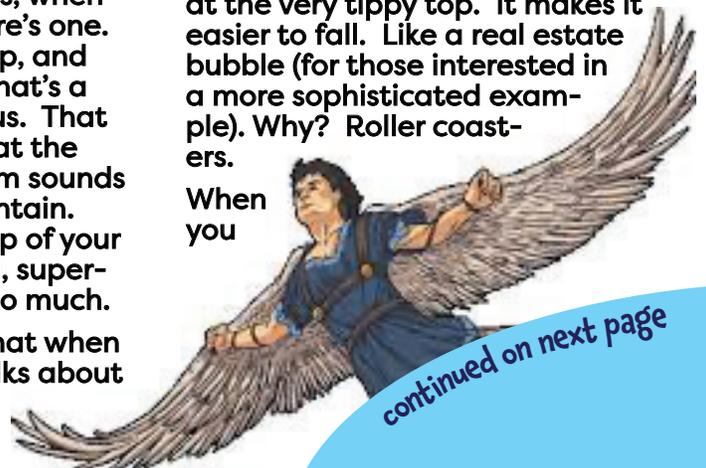
The interesting thing is that when the Torah talks about the neg-

ative, it says, “You’ll sink to the bottom-bottom, and your enemies will be at the top- top.”

That’s odd. When describing negative events, it uses double wording. “Bottom- bottom.” Yet when it comes to the positive wording, it just says it once. “The top.” That’s not as high as the tippy top, is it?

Everyone knows the myth of Icarus. Wearing wax wings (which must have been amazing to light on Chanukah), he flew up too close to the sun. So they melted. He should have used super glue. The point of that story (aside from the scientific information it teaches about realistic aerodynamics) is that sometimes it’s not good to be at the very tippy top. It makes it easier to fall. Like a real estate bubble (for those interested in a more sophisticated example). Why? Roller coasters.

When you



Candle lighting

- Honolulu 6:15
- Scottsdale 6:14
- Henderson 6:27
- Las Vegas 6:28
- San Diego 6:35
- Irvine 6:38
- Los Angeles 6:40
- Reno 6:47
- Oakland 6:57
- Park City 7:14

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continued on next page



# IF YOU'RE RICH ENOUGH, THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MUSEUM AND THE GIFT SHOP

DEFY



LAS VEGAS  
WEDNESDAY  
SEPT 21



PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE A BRUSTERS EVENT IN LAS VEGAS THIS MONDAY. DEFY WEDNESDAY IS INSTEAD

reach the highest point of a roller coaster, and it stops moving; that's when you know it's about to drop. It's not the top that is a problem, but when we've reached the absolute pinnacle of success and happiness, we stop moving and growing. We think we've 'made it.' That's what causes us to fall. So (says the Chida), the Torah does not bless us with the very top of success. Just 'near the top' of success, so that we're less likely to fall. When we're experiencing negative, though, the Torah promises us the very, very darkest rock bottom, so that we may rise again.

*continued from page 1*

This idea can help inspire us to make sure we realize that there's always room for growth and improvement. As high as we are, we can get higher, so it's not yet time to fall.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

On Rosh Hashana many have the custom to eat symbolic foods (like a fish head). Can you find a source in this week's parsha?

**NO CHEATING**

answer on page 4

## HELP UKRANIAN REFUGEES

Thursday, Sept 29th in the Los Angeles area, we'll be packaging and shipping much needed supplies to help Ukranian refugees. Stay tuned for details.

# PICKLE JEWS

## GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022

THE PICKLE JEWS LEXICON, ENTRY: SYNERGY- TWO WAYS TO MISTRANSLATE THE SAME WORD.



Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto: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



## #213 Bad at Math. Good at Learning.

Hi Rabbi,

I love to read. I don't mean just Harry Potter and stuff. I like to read educational things, like Torah books. Some people have told me that I shouldn't study Torah on my own, that it should only be studied with a partner or in a group. Is that true?

Thanks,

Chava Ruta

Dear ChavRuta,

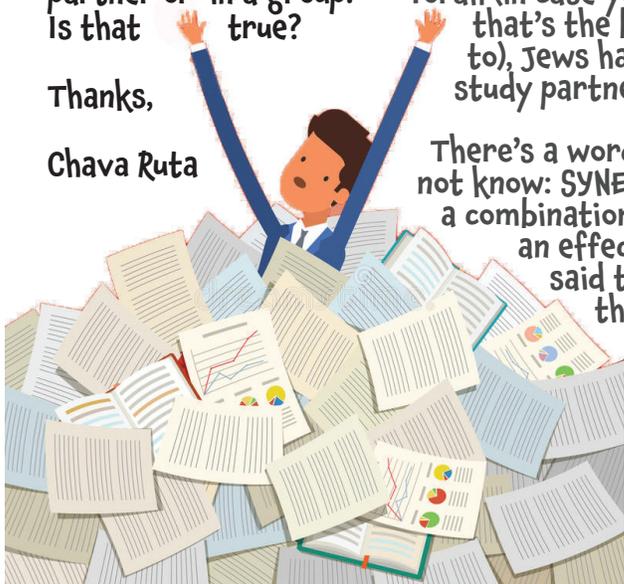
You know, I tried reserving a table at my local library, but they were overbooked.

You might have heard the Jewish people being referred to as the 'People of the Book' because, well, everything we believe and do is based on one particular book. Yet, when it comes to the complex study of Torah (in case you didn't figure it out, that's the book I was referring to), Jews have always believed in study partners or groups.

There's a word you might or might not know: SYNERGY. Synergy is when a combination of things produces an effect or result that is said to be greater than the sum of its parts. In other words, sometimes 1+1 is more than 2.

The Talmud (Brachos 63b) says that Torah cannot be fully accessed without

a group. Some commentaries say that was only true a long time ago, when the oral torah (AKA talmud) was not written down. If you would study alone, you would only be able to stare at the three walls (if you lived in a triangular shaped room) and space out. Or you could review the stuff you already knew. But it's quite impossible to learn new things if you have no book and you have no teacher. In our modern world, we not only have gazillions of good Torah books, we also have amazing websites and apps (Sefaria.org has a library with nearly 200 million words) to help you gain whatever knowledge you seek. There are youtube videos and Instagram reels teaching Torah, and apps like All Daf and Torah Anytime where you can find many thousands of classes on basically any Jewish topic. In today's world, these commentaries explain, it's fine to study alone, if you have the right books. It's also important to factor in the quality of the books or teachers. If you have an awesome, holy, pious, knowledgeable, understandable teacher, or a group of friends who have those qualities, then it might be better to study from



**What a week on the West Coast! SkyZone trip in Phoenix, Latte and Learn in Orange County, Hebrew name bracelets at our LV Hebrew School, formation of a new Las Vegas board as well as reJEWnal board, ice cream and so much more!**



them. On the flip side, if you have books written by awesome scholars, but your community's teachers are inaccessible or flawed, then reading might be your best bet. Also, some people learn differently than others and you might benefit from group stimulation, or might do better with quiet focused study.

Still, there are a few serious benefits to studying with a partner (called a chavruta) or with a group (called a chaburah) that you simply can't get from a book. There's something called 'The battle of Torah.' Walk into a serious Yeshiva (post high school, where people are training to be Rabbis, for example), and you'll see people shouting at each other, gesticulating and getting very worked up in talmudic debate. This is not just for fun (though it IS kinda fun). Fighting for truth, arguing and examining at every angle is a much more

effective way of getting true clarity in any subject. This is especially true of Torah study. Even if you spend some time reading Torah books (and you should- there are some great ones- A special shout out to Artsroll Publications, who have revolutionized Jewish book learning with their awesome translations, original books and beautiful creations), it's usually a great idea to make at least some of your learning group- based. Truth is, anytime a mitzvah is being done, it's better to do it in a group. There's a power to a group of Jews doing a mitzvah that just isn't the same when people are doing something separately. Synergy is a big deal, even if it's bad at math.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*the Rabbi*

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT [STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG)

Credit for much of the information in today's answer goes to my good friend, Rabbi Elchonon Shoff, who writes about this topic in his book, *Birchasa V'Shirasa*

## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

The question is on page 2. Hey, be patient. Try to figure it out without looking right away. Heyy, yeah, you!

Devorim 28:13 mentions the blessings if we do what God wants. It says, "And you will be for a head and not for a tail." This is the source for the fish (or ram) head, and the connected prayer on Rosh Hashana.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rabbi David Shenker  
Noam Eden  
Paz Simchon  
Simon Factor  
Matt Sheynis  
Aaron Smith  
Berit Ben-Shimon  
Emily Flores  
Yosef Arnell  
Dassi Rothman



[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)  
[info@nageelawest.org](mailto:info@nageelawest.org)  
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO LAS VEGAS JEWNIOR NCSY'S NEW BOARD MEMEBERS. YOU'LL BE HEARING MORE FROM THEM SOON!**



I just had lunch with my pet dalmation.

It really hit the spot.

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

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

