

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting
Scottsdale 5:24
Henderson 5:34
Las Vegas 5:34
San Diego 5:46
Irvine 5:48
Los Angeles 5:49
Lake Tahoe 5:49

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Season 4
Episode 1

Famous First Words

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Famous last words of famous people:

- “Where is my clock?” Salvador Dali
- “One last drink, please.” Jack Daniel
- “I feel something that is not of this world.” Mozart
- “Oh wow. Oh wow. Oh wow.” Steve Jobs
- “More milk.” Michael Jackson
- “Money can’t buy life.” Bob Marley
- “Severus, please.” Albus Dumbledore

You can tell a lot about people from their last words. Well, sometimes.

What about famous first words?

Our wonderful and holy Torah begins with the words “Bereishis Bara

Elokim.” That is usually translated as: “In the beginning, God created the heavens, etc..” But this isn’t really a good translation, if you know Hebrew grammar. It’s actually, “In the beginning of... God created the heavens, etc.”

In the beginning of... In the beginning of what? **T**hat’s like saying, “In the first five minutes of ____ I got tired.” You fill in the blank. First five minutes of the Krispy Kreme Marathon (yes, that’s really a thing)? First five minutes of the documentary about underground pickle manufacturing during prohibition (that SHOULD be a thing)? First five minutes of a reverse horse race (people carry the horses on their backs... that is not a thing)? You’ve got to be more specific. Yet the Torah leaves it blank. “In the beginning of ____, God created.”

There are many explanations for this conundrum (not to be confused with a co-nun drum, which is two nuns drumming together). One concept hinted to in the Talmud is that this was the beginning of time itself. Until recently, scientists and philosophers believed that time has always existed. Yet more recently, it has become clear that time is connected to the Universe, and before there was a universe, time itself did



I bet you didn't know you could sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos.

Now that you know you can, please do.

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Cun-tin-yood from page 1

not exist. Jewish thinkers understood this, thousands of years ago. I won't go into the deep philosophical concept right here, but there's a hugely important lesson:

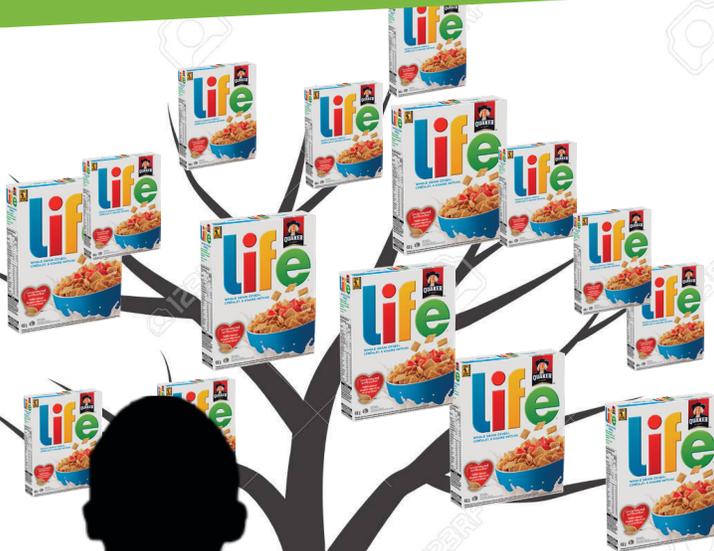
People are very worried about stuff. For some people the worry is about protecting their personal possessions. For others it's all about protecting their environment and their world. Yet more people value the lives of friends and family above all else. While these are all extremely important, it's not enough to simply care for the physical space of the world. We must also concern ourselves with time. Time is a creation of God, just like clouds, oceans or pancrea (is that the plural of a pancreas? I honestly don't know. Pancreases? Pancakes? Pancreii?) We've got to be careful not to waste our time or other peoples' time. This is why Jewish law values even temporary life more than anything else. We willingly break Shabbos, for example, even to extend someone's life temporarily. Even if they won't survive long term, every bit of time is so precious!

Hey, I just realized this is pretty connected to this week's Stump the Rabbi discussion. Read it. Every moment you have in life is precious. Let's make sure we don't squander any of those moments. Time is life!

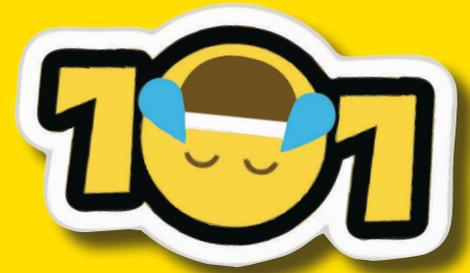
for an in depth explanation of this concept, I recommend "The Science of God" by Dr. Gerald Schroeder

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



Remind me again why we can't eat from this tree?



What kind of rash is the most painful?

A Carc rash

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Jew nior
NCSSU
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK:

Sunday: Las Vegas Roller Skating party 4-6pm

Monday: Tarzana Jr. LNL - 6pm

Monday: LV Summerlin 5:45 (4-6 grade) and 7

Wednesday: Studio City Jr. LNL

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6pm

Thursday: Los Angeles City Jr. LNL

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAVE THE DATE: Las Vegas Kickoff Event: Sunday, October 27th @ Crystal Palace

Las Vegas Shabbaton Featuring

Adventuredome! Nov. 22nd- 23rd

Regional Shabbaton Weekend: Jan. 17th (MLK weekend) San Francisco!

Join your city's Junior Board: email

lockerd@ncsu.org

DEEP THOUGHTS

What if there were
no hypothetical
questions?

Expiration Date

Hi Rabbi,

My Dad is trying to get my grandfather to retire, but he refuses. Grandpa says he'll retire when God tells him to retire. My Dad is worried about his father's health. What does Judaism say about retirement?

Thanks,

Raphael E. Tyree



**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*

*Questions here are real. Names and
some wording have been changed.*

Dear R. E. Tyree,

Your father and grandfather both sound like smart guys. In a way, they're both right! I'll explain what I mean. Most countries have a standard retirement age. In the United States, the average age of retirement is about 62. Some studies have shown that retiring younger can be linked to increased life expectancy. Countries where the retirement age is below 60 tend to have longer life expectancies. That's all on your father's side. There's no doubt that at a certain age, a person has to slow down a little bit, and have less strain in their daily lives. The real question though, is: what are they doing with their lives after retirement?

The Torah doesn't have a retirement age.

We all know that at Bar or Bat Mitzvah is when we're responsible to START keeping the commandments of the Torah. Yet there is no age, when you can STOP following the commandments of the Torah. No age when we say, "Shabbat is cool for a younger guy, but I'm 80 now, and I'm done with that." Or, "Once you hit 68, Yom Kippur is optional." NOPE. Every single day of our lives is supposed to be meaningful and productive. The commandments exist to help us be the greatest people we can, and that continues until we physically are unable to continue.

So we don't stop

studying
Torah
at 65.
Don't stop
giving

charity at 70. We even put on tefillin at 75, and attend prayer services at 80. We make Kosher food choices at 85, and thank God for that food even when we're 90 (not for the SAME food, it would be moldy by then). We shake our lulav at 95, and make sure not to lie, cheat or gossip when we're 100. There's no retirement age in the Torah because as long as God gives us another day of life, our job is to make

the most of that day! In this sense your Grandpa is right. God will tell him when to retire. I find it sad that many people, when they reach retirement age, decide that they no longer need to be productive members of society. Sure, they might need to relax more. Sure, they might

need a couple more vacations, shorter days and a few more rounds of golf, but that should not mean that their lives have no goal or purpose. That's just depressing.

However, health is a big factor. So if your Dad is concerned with your Grandpa's health, perhaps they can compromise. Your grandfather doesn't want to quit. That's AWESOME! Maybe he can slow down a bit, shift to part time, or do an easier job. Some retirees find smaller



**The Torah has
no retirement
age.**



SKATE NIGHT

@ CRYSTAL PALACE RANCHO
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
4-6PM

PRIZES
TOO!

jobs volunteering for the community, or working part time in their previous profession. Being active and engaged will keep your grandfather feeling and acting young... as long as he doesn't overdo it! Seriously, a guy shouldn't be employed as a stunt double at his age! Ya know, watchmakers never retire... they just wind down!

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

to the Locker family upon a birth of a baby girl this week!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela family members celebrating this week!

Moriel Shabtai
Beni Cohen
Jacob Chapman
Maytar Neev
Halle Hirshman
Robbie Zeligman

Sari Shakhman
Talia Zargari
Maor Kohen
Myles Marks
Jacob Grantz

HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE ELSE!

YOLO

shabbaton 4

weekend adventure

NOV. 22-23RD

Las Vegas
featuring

The Adventure dome
THEME PARK



Nageela West 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.