

Pekudei 5782  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

# HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 21

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## The Magic Mirror

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Mirror, mirror on the wall,  
Who's the weirdest of them all?

I think that's how it goes. Mirrors are very interesting creatures. Fine, so they're not creatures, but they do seem to carry a lot of life. Seen through a mirror, you can detect wondrous events like rainstorms, birthdays, puppies, pillow fights, pickle juice chugging contests... one Norwegian town even built giant mirrors to reflect the sun, because they had no direct sunlight for a few months a year. Yet the mirror itself never moves. It blows out no candles, tickles no toddlers, fries no fish. If you walk closer to a mirror, the person on the other side approaches you. If you turn your back and slink away, she will go, too. Yet that mirror person (can we call her Miri?) is not doing any of the actual moving.

I interrupt this commercial message about mirrors with a word from our

sponsor... the Midrash Tanchuma.

The question is, "Where is God located?" This is what the Midrash says:

Originally, God's presence was located right here on this world. However, the first couple messed up (1), and God partially left. BTW, when we talk about God 'being there' or 'leaving' we mean how strongly God's influence and presence are felt. For example, if a coach teaches a player how to do a certain move (like if Gordon Bombay teaches you the triple deke), then every time you score with that move you can feel closeness to that coach- I hope that helped a bit. God had 'moved away' but was still close, until Kane disAbeled his brother (2). Then God moved farther away. Several more times, through unGodly acts



Candle lighting

- Henderson 5:20
- Las Vegas 5:20
- Reno 5:36
- San Diego 5:24
- Irvine 5:30
- Los Angeles 5:34
- Oakland 5:47
- Park City 6:02
- Scottsdale 6:08
- Honolulu 6:19

Roses are red, pickles are green,  
sponsor Nageela Shabbos and your name will be seen.  
Contact [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org) for details

continued on next page

NEXT WEEK IN UTAH



people were guilty of, God moved yet more distant:

The generation of Enosh started worshipping false gods (3) and the generation of Noah was just flat out rotten (4) Then the Babylonians tried to build a tower to fight God (5) and the

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When God seems to get closer or farther, it's we who are actually moving.

people of Sodom created a society where kindness was a crime (6). When the wicked 4 kings fought their battle, God departed to the most distant corner of heaven, barely connected to the world at all.

Then Abraham came along and reversed the process, bringing God back to the 6th level of heaven. Isaac moved the needle to level 5, and Isaac finished with God at a shiny, new 5th level of heaven. His son Levi (4), his son Kehas (3), and his son Amram (2) got close, but it was only on the day Moses erected the Mishkan that God once again dwelled fully on Earth.

God mirrors us. When we see God seeming to move farther away, it's because we have actually been the ones moving. When God seems close, it's because we've come closer to the mirror.

May we all reach the point where we fog up the mirror with our breath!

deep thoughts IF GLASS IS MADE OF SAND, SKYSCRAPERS ARE JUST REALLY, REALLY TALL SANDCASTLES

# PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP by Dani Locker, 2022



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



## #198 Just Justice

This is the fourth installment of our series on prayer. Please take a look at our archives for more.

Hi Rabbi,

We are constantly praying for other people. Why? I mean, why should it help? In previous weeks, you've explained in general why we pray- keeping a connection to God, and as a way to reflect on what we want and why. What I don't understand is why that should help anyone but ourselves. If you pray, and you keep up a connection to God, how does that help the person you're praying for?

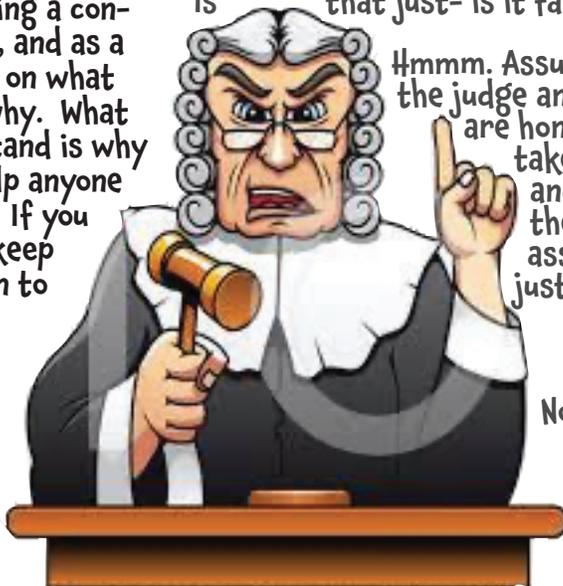
Thanks,  
Misha Berach

Dear Misha,  
Is justice just?  
Just what?

No, no. I mean is it JUST.

Is it Just WHAT?

☹️ Let's try this: somebody steals. They get caught. They go to court. The judge and jury send them to jail. Is that just- is it fair?



Hmmm. Assuming that the judge and jury are honest, don't take bribes and follow the laws, I assume it is just.

Nope.

Really?  
Rabbi?

You don't believe in laws and courts?

Whoa. I didn't say that. I do believe in law and courts and that criminals should go to jail. It still isn't really just.

Why not?

The criminal may be getting the justice he deserves, but what about his family? His kids have done nothing wrong, and yet they will suffer greatly. It may still be necessary, and society needs laws and police and jails to function, but that doesn't make it just. Human justice is limited- we can never pretend that anything we do will be perfect justice. Every situation in the world is like throwing a pebble in a pond, and the ripples spread and affect many people. Sometimes unjustly, but there's not much we can do about it.

But God? Oh, God is way different!

God's justice is absolutely perfect. He's really good at math and logistics, and God makes sure that anything that happens to anyone fits in perfectly with the plan of what is supposed to happen to

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everyone who is affected. [One important factor to understand is that no human is ever perfect and without mistakes, and God can decide how and where to provide the corrective discomfort for those mistakes- that's a loaded topic for a different week]. If someone near to us suffers, and that makes us sad or uncomfortable, that means we're also imperfect, or else we wouldn't experience that discomfort. Makes sense so far? Good.

When we pray, even for someone else, we improve ourselves and build up our spiritual bank account. We do this in a few ways. Firstly, as we've mentioned in previous weeks, prayer is a way of strengthening our connection and relationship with God. If we're stronger and closer to God, those around us are less likely to suffer. Also, when we pray, we focus on how everything is in God's hands (literally most of prayer is about how God is the source of every blessing and success in the world). Doing this certainly levels us up. The

more we level up, the more blessing it brings to those around us. If we're connected enough to a person to pray for their success or recovery, that means their state affects us greatly. If we level up, they receive more blessing! Cool, huh?

So think about other people in trouble, whether it's a relative with a health problem, refugees from a war, or a lonely person looking for a partner in life. Think about it until you feel a bit uncomfortable. Then ask God to help. You'd be surprised at the results.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*the Rabbi*

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

**LAS VEGAS TREATS FOR TROOPS**

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**BREAKING NEWS**

THERE ARE MANY UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AT THE ARMY BASE THESE PACKAGES ARE GOING TO

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: \$20 PER JUMPER.  
For questions or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037 or [lockerd@ncsy.org](mailto:lockerd@ncsy.org)

Sending meaningful Purim Packages to Jewish American soldiers serving overseas.

Jewnier NCSU

THIS MONDAY in Las Vegas- the packages will help Ukranian refugees @ the Army base as well as the soldiers.

MORE THAN 30 packages of food and supplies packed by Jewnier NCSY participants in LA & Scottsdale this week



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Steven Kostick  
Bella Lyttle  
Akiva Gross  
Nuni Piriyeva  
Panina Rast  
Shlomo Zachai  
Azi Steiner  
Roni Facher



If you interrupt someone while they are doing a puzzle, you will probably hear some cross words.

**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.

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