

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS VAYEISHEV 5781 • ISSUE 221

HE'S NOT WEARING TZITZIS!

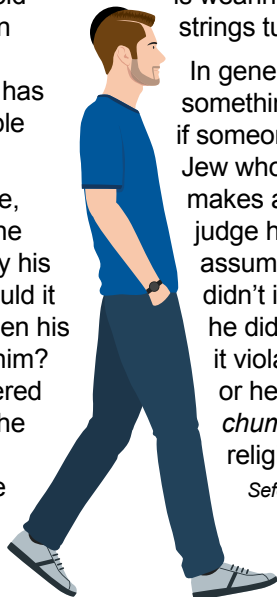
He's not perfect, but in almost every way, he seems like an upstanding Jew. However, you've seen him do something wrong, and he should know better! What should you think? What should you say?

THE DILEMMA

Your family is invited to visit your aunt and uncle in their country house one beautiful summer day.

They greet you royally with a table full of homemade cookies and ice-cold lemonade. Then they take you on a tour of their property. It's not a bungalow colony; it's a farm that has sheep, chickens, a huge vegetable garden and a fishing pond.

As you walk along with your uncle, you notice something strange. The *tzitzis* that are always dangling by his side are nowhere to be seen. Could it be that he doesn't wear them when his friends and neighbors can't see him? Could it be that he can't be bothered with another layer of clothing in the hot weather? You wonder what's going on. Would it be appropriate for you to talk to your uncle or get someone else to speak to him to correct his ways?



THE HALACHAH

No. First, in this particular case, a simple explanation might be that your uncle is wearing *tzitzis* with the strings tucked in.

In general, even if something is clearly wrong, if someone is a G-d-fearing Jew who occasionally makes a mistake, we must judge him favorably and assume that either he didn't intend to do what he did; he didn't know it violated the Torah; or he thought it was a *chumrah* that only very religious Jews observe.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 4:3

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy. For discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

We love the Machsom L'Fi program and look forward to it every Shabbos.

One really special thing is that we daven for neighbors and friends who need shidduchim and we have seen so many yeshuos! We can't wait to see more b'karov, be"H!

Shira Katz
Passaic, N.J.

PASSAIC

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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"It is impossible to merit the quality of peace without first ridding oneself of baseless hatred and loshon hora."

- Sefer Shmiras HaLoshon, Part 2, Ch. 7

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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

UNMASKING THE POWER OF EMUNAH

HEARD FROM RABBI DAVID ASHEAR

Joe was a successful businessman until the coronavirus hit. With the economy closed down, he lost so much money that he was barely able to make ends meet. After years of being the giver, Joe found himself on the taking end, asking a relative for a loan to help him stay afloat. But Joe didn't just sit back and wallow in his situation; he had a contact in China who could produce masks, the hottest item on the market. Unfortunately, however, Joe couldn't raise the money to invest in production. The opportunity beckoned, but it was out of reach.

Meanwhile, Joe's friend shared with him the great news that he had gotten an order for 1.2 million masks and only needed to find a manufacturer to make them. He was negotiating with one, but the details hadn't been ironed out. Joe was sincerely happy for his friend and even *davened* that the deal would work out for him.

A few days later, following up on the conversation, Joe found out that more complications had arisen with the deal. He *davened* even harder. Then, a few days after that, the friend confided that the deal had fallen through. He had a huge order and no way to fill it.

"I know a manufacturer," Joe told his friend. He gave him the contact information for the company that was to have produced masks for him – and he continued to *daven* for his friend's success. Not only did the connection work out, but the friend obtained another order for another 1.2 million masks.

A few weeks later, Joe received a check in the mail for several hundred thousand dollars. His friend had made him a partner in his mask enterprise even though Joe had not asked for anything in return for the connection with the manufacturer. "That money got me through my financial



sage advice

HOW TO HANDLE CRYING CHILDREN



Harav Chaim Meir Hager, the Vizhnitzer Rebbe known as the Imrei Chaim, was once walking down the street when he came upon a crying child. The father who was accompanying the child had apparently decided to let him cry. The Vizhnitzer Rebbe bent down to the child and began speaking soothing words to him. The tears stopped.

"We mustn't let Jewish children cry and not try to calm them down," the Rebbe said to the child's father. "Because if we ignore the cries of a child, then when the children of Hashem are crying, *Shamayim* will follow our lead, and won't be stirred to help us."

From this story Rabbi Ephraim Shapiro draws a powerful incentive to hear and respond to a fellow Jew's pain, whether he is expressing it outwardly with tears or holding it inside. We cannot afford to think, "That's *his* problem," because in doing so, we bring about a mirror response in Heaven to our own problems.

Instead, we can tap into our power to provide comfort. If we have practical help to offer, we should offer it. But no matter what we can or cannot change in the person's situation, we can soothe him with encouraging, caring words. The more each member of *Klal Yisrael* hears his brothers' cries, the more our Father will hear His children's cries and bring us redemption from all our tears and troubles.

TALK ABOUT IT

What are some thoughts that can increase our empathy for others' troubles?

crisis," Joe says. But what really got him through was his *emunah*, which assured him that helping out a competitor could bring only *brachah*.

TALK ABOUT IT

How did this man's *emunah* enable him to rise above jealousy and ultimately benefit from his friend's good fortune?

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