

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS SHEMOS 5781 • ISSUE 224

'THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS'

You're not trying to criticize. You're just relating some facts that happen to illustrate someone's laxity in a mitzvah. May you include this fact in your story?

THE DILEMMA

When Sol's parents arrived in America after the war, they, like many other refugees, did not know quite how to live in their new country. After all their suffering, they had little energy for more struggles. They worked to fit into their new home even while trying to stay loyal to Torah and *mitzvos*.

Sol was their oldest child and now they had many grandchildren. Sol's children idolized their Zeidy and Bubby and loved to hear stories about Sol's childhood. One day, Sol described his trips with his mother to a famous department store in downtown Brooklyn.

"If I behaved on the bus and while we were shopping, then Bubby would take me to the ice-cream shop in the store. In those days, they thought if it's ice cream it must be kosher," he related with a chuckle.

"You mean you ate unkosher ice cream?" asked Sol's 10-year-old grandson. Did Sol just speak *loshon hora*?



THE HALACHAH

A person is not allowed to say that someone did something that most people consider to be a violation of the Torah. This is so whether the information is about transgressing a negative *mitzvah* or failing to perform a positive *mitzvah*.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim
Hilchos Loshon Hora 4:2*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

I appreciate all CCHF projects. You do an amazing job!

This newsletter and Shabbos Machsom have a huge impact. Thanks for your special work!

I. Cohen
Brooklyn, NY

BROOKLYN

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Even if peace eludes you,

pur
[that is,] if your fellow Jew refuses to make peace with you, chase after him to

appe
him."

- Midrash Shmuel, Avos 1:12

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.

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MALKA BREINDEL A" H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH" T

ON ACCOUNT

AS TOLD TO SARAH MASSRY

There were not many items on the conveyer belt and they were all basic groceries.

When it was time to pay, the customer reached into his pocket and looked through his wallet a couple of times. The cashier looked away and waited patiently, yet it was hard to ignore the scene behind him. The checkout line was long and the customers were growing impatient. Next on line was a woman with a bulging shopping cart and a crying toddler. She alternated between soothing her toddler and tapping impatiently on the handle of the cart; then she glanced at her watch.

The customer at the register seemed flustered. "Um, can you please place this order on my account?" he asked the cashier.

"Sure," replied the cashier, turning back to the register, "what's your phone number?"

Nervously, the customer recited his number. The cashier punched in the numbers, and then slowly shook his head. The customer looked on anxiously; indeed the account had reached its limit. He was no longer allowed to purchase groceries on credit.

The cashier paused, unsure of how to proceed. This was a situation that every person working a cash register dreads. How could he ask the customer to put back the groceries and send him away without the food that he needed to feed his family? On the other hand, he couldn't sell him groceries on credit anymore.

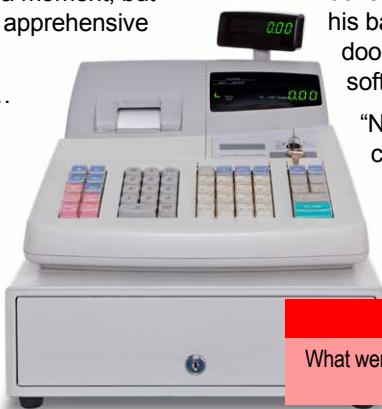
Around them the store was bustling, oblivious to the drama unfolding at the register. Music blared, registers rang, a nearby baby was crying. Behind them there was a line of impatient customers waiting their turn to pay. Yet all remained still at the register.

What happened next only took a moment, but it made all the difference to the apprehensive customer at the counter.

Swiftly the cashier punched in... his own phone number, placing the total cost of the customer's groceries on his own account.

"It's okay now," said the cashier (not likely to be terribly well-off himself).

A look of confusion crossed the customer's face. "But..." he stammered.



sage advice YOUR PART IN THE PLAY

How You Speak Becomes Who You Are

Want to be the good guy? The hero?

It's up to you to decide what character you play in the drama of life. You write the script with the words you speak.

You're sitting at a table of relatives at a family simchah. One cousin is missing – the one who always seems to be missing.

"Too bad Reuven couldn't come," says Cousin Shimon. "We don't get to see him often enough."

"Well, he's a busy guy," says Cousin Levi. "With his store and all the things he does for Tomchei Shabbos, it's hard for him to get away."

"Oh, please," says Cousin Yehudah. "We're all busy guys. You have to care enough to come, and obviously, Reuven doesn't."

Which character would you rather be? With which one would you rather spend time? Shimon and Levi, who give their cousin the benefit of the doubt, or Yehudah, who crashes the mood with a few sour words?

Hashem gives us the tools to avoid becoming the Yehudah character in our life's story. **The laws of Shmiras Haloshon guide us in creating an award-winning role for ourselves as people who light up the stage with love, friendship, compassion and courage.**

"It's been taken care of," was the reply.

Despite his confusion, the customer looked relieved as he gathered his bags and headed for the door. "Thank you," he said softly.

"No problem," replied the cashier. "Next!"

Ahavas Yisrael...

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TALK ABOUT IT

What were the cashier's choices in this situation? What would you have done?

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