



# SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS VAYAKHEL-PIKUDEI 5781 • ISSUE 233

## LAY IT ON THE LINE

*You are seeking information about someone for a legitimate purpose. You know that if you disclose the reason for your questions, the person you are asking is likely to be more diplomatic and less forthcoming. May you withhold your purpose so that you will get candid information?*

T H E

### DILEMMA

**P**inchas had to shut down his business because of COVID-19. He has been desperately searching for a new source of *parnassah* ever since. When Levi decides to hire a sales manager for his growing medical mask company, someone suggests Pinchas.

"Yeah, but how do I know that he's competent?" Levi replies. "Maybe it was COVID that killed his business, or maybe he made some bad moves."

He decides to call a customer who had also done business with Pinchas. He casually brings up businesses that were shuttered because of COVID.

"You know, Pinchas couldn't get back on his feet after the lockdown," Levi says.

"I wonder if it was COVID or if the business was failing anyway. Did he talk to you about it?"

The customer begins revealing the unflattering inside story of Pinchas' bankruptcy. Is this conversation *loshon hora*?



T H E

### HALACHAH

**L**evi must reveal the reason for his questions, even if doing so might water down the information he will receive. Without meeting that condition, the customer who is giving the information is speaking *loshon hora*, and Levi has violated the mitzvah of "Do not place a stumbling block before the blind."

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,  
Hilchos Loshon Hora 4:11*

## PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*Can I subscribe to the Shabbos Menu newsletter? I live in Chicago and a rebbi who works with me gets it and showed it to me.*

Rabbi A.  
Chicago, Illinois

*Ed. Sure, we will sign you up. You can also easily sign up for The Shabbos Machsom L'Fi Program at: [powerofspeech.org/shabbos](http://powerofspeech.org/shabbos)*

## FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

[Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org](mailto:Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org)

Rabi Masya ben Charash says:

"Always be

*first*  
to say shalom to  
*every*  
person."

— Avos 4:20

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.

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS

MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"T

CHICAGO



**F**rom the 1920s until Israel's War of Independence, both Jews and Arabs lived in the Land of Israel under the British Mandate. During that period, a certain young man made his living delivering flowers all around Yerushalayim. Traveling his route by bike each day, from stores to homes to hotels, he became a familiar sight to the local people.

One day the young man visited a local coffee shop frequented by both Arabs and Jews. As he sat at a table engaged in conversation with an Arab acquaintance, the door opened. The Arab who walked in projected a threatening presence, with his dark, cold eyes and leathery face, marred by a deep scar.

Surveying the room, the Arab set his eyes on the young man's table, strode over, pulled out a chair and sat down.

"Are you the one who delivers flowers by bike all over the city?" the Arab asked.

"Yes, that's me," the young man answered nervously.

"I want you to know that you shouldn't be alive now," said the Arab. The young man jumped back in his seat, preparing to run if necessary. But the Arab's tone softened as he began telling a story.

He revealed that he belonged to a terrorist organization that was dedicated to driving the Jews from Yerushalayim. "Our commanders decided to carry out a killing spree across Jerusalem," he said. "We would each choose someone to target, follow him around for a few days to learn his routine, and then strike at the right moment. I chose you."

"I often saw you riding through the streets. You had a regular route and would be easy to pick off. And because everyone knows you, everyone would hear about it quickly; with one murder I could terrify half the city. So I followed you around for a few days. I learned your routine and I knew just when you would be most vulnerable. But one thing I hadn't counted on.

## SPARE CHANGE AND A SPARED LIFE

"Every day, I saw you get off your bike and give a few coins to an Arab who sat begging at the side of the road. That man is my uncle. He used to live in Saudi Arabia. Twice he was arrested for stealing, and each time they cut off one of his hands as punishment. He came here, but with

no hands he has no way to earn a living. He became a beggar, and you helped him. And that's why you're alive today."

Although the Torah does not obligate a Jew to give *tzedakah* to a non-Jew, the young deliveryman went out of his way to show compassion to a fellow human being. Hashem put compassion in his would-be attacker's heart, and the young man's life was saved.

### TALK ABOUT IT

Would you have given the Arab beggar money? Why or why not? What do you think the deliveryman's reason was for giving?

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן  
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל  
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש  
אלול תשע"ז  
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

To Join  
THE SHABBOS TABLE  
MACHSOM L'FI

Visit: [powerofspeech.org/shabbos](http://powerofspeech.org/shabbos)  
or in the USA, text: **shabbos to 313131**

Free  
Inspiration  
24/6



Lakewood 732.806.8599 Monsey 845.356.6665  
New York 718.258.2008 Toronto 416.800.0656  
Eretz Yisrael 03.929.0707 England 44.203.375.1580

## sage advice

### AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

There's a saying that "Everyone has his price." It's a cynical statement suggesting that people will stick to their principles only until the reward for betraying them becomes tempting enough. On the other hand, what if the reward was being given not to abandon your principles, but to stay true to them?

*Boruch knew a secret – a deep, dark secret. It was about someone well known, someone people looked up to. The subject of this secret was often quoted. His name often appeared in conjunction with various charity organizations and yeshivos. Whenever that person's name came up in conversation, Boruch felt like exploding.*

*"If people knew what I know," Boruch thought, "they'd be running this guy out of town."*

*One evening Boruch was heading out to his son's yeshivah's dinner, at which the man with the secret was among the long list of honorees. Without telling his wife the details of the information or to whom it pertained, Boruch told her about his difficulty keeping the secret.*

*"I know there's no purpose in telling this to people," Boruch said. "And it doesn't even matter. The guy does a lot of good things. There's no doubt about that. It's just that I know he's no saint."*

*His wife gave him advice. Every time he felt like spilling the secret, he should imagine their marriageable-age daughter walking down the aisle.*

*"Think of the merit you have by keeping quiet," she said. "Think of it helping Shani to find the right guy and get married."*

The idea worked. Boruch had his "price." And Chazal tell us that if we knew the reward our Shmiras Haloshon earns us in the Next World, we too would be sold on this mitzvah: "For every moment one guards one's tongue, he earns reward that is beyond the comprehension of angels" (the Vilna Gaon, citing the *Midrash*).

**Ever answer a shidduch call?**

No more uncertainty, fumbling, or feeling bad about your answers!

**ClarityCalls**  
Shidduch calls done right!

Sign up [cchf.global/claritycalls](http://cchf.global/claritycalls)

Email [joinclaritycalls@cchfglobal.org](mailto:joinclaritycalls@cchfglobal.org)

Text 'claritycalls' to 313131

Whatsapp 'Join' to 845.392.2398



## OUR MISSION

at the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation is to inspire Jews around the world to grasp the life-enhancing gift of Shmiras Haloshon, Ahavas Yisrael and Shalom, and to provide easy access to a wide array of options designed to spark personal growth.

**50,000 TB Event**  
attendees