

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS SHEMINI 5781 • ISSUE 235

“HE HAS A DARK SIDE”

You just can't stand to see a person treating others so poorly. You're bursting to share your sense of outrage with someone, and you've found just the right person. May you tell that person what you saw?

THE DILEMMA

Shalom was in a conference with his major client. When the client's phone buzzed he glanced down at it to see who was calling, rolled his eyes, and disconnected the call. Every few minutes the phone buzzed again. Finally, apologizing to Shalom, the client picked up the call.

"I'm in the middle of a meeting," he growled into the phone. He seemed to take on a whole new persona – a very unpleasant one. Shalom held up his hand to indicate that he didn't mind the interruption, but the client went on. "I told you a thousand times not to disturb me. What don't you understand about that?" He disconnected the call and turned back to Shalom as if nothing had happened. "Sorry. It's my warehouse manager. Not the brightest."

When the meeting was over, Shalom was still disturbed by what he had heard. He knew this client for several years but had never seen this dark side of him before. When Shalom's partner walked into his office Shalom said, "I have to tell you what just went on here with that client. I don't know, you tell me if you think I'm over-reacting. I thought it was a pretty scary...."

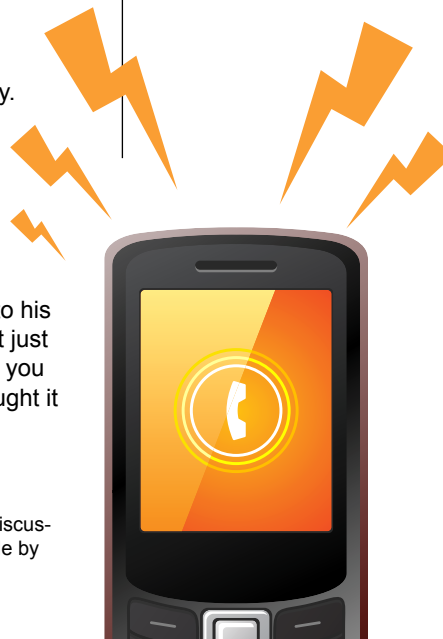
Is Shalom's story loshon hora?

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.

THE HALACHAH

A story that depicts someone violating a mitzvah *bein adam lachaveiro*, even if completely true, is loshon hora unless there is a constructive purpose and all the rules of *to'e'les* are kept.

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



PARTICIPANTS SPEAK



I didn't think this book was for me because I have shalom with everyone! But it has new insights that will surely help everyone!

*Name withheld
Monsey, NY*

Ed: Live the Blessing is available at all Jewish bookstores and at cchf.global/shop

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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"By my father (Rav Velvel), we didn't talk about

people,
only about
ideas!"

- Rav Dovid Soleveitchik

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MONSEY





sage advice

SO MUCH TO DISCUSS

A yeshivah student came to visit Rav Dovid Soleveitchik zt"l, and the conversation turned to a controversial topic. The student asked Rav Dovid his opinion of a certain *rav* who was on the other side of the controversy. In asking his question he referred to the *rav* by his last name, without the title "Rav."

Rav Dovid didn't respond. Thinking that his question hadn't been heard, the boy repeated it. Again, no response.

At this point, the boy was forced to stop and wonder what was going on. He concluded that Rav David was expressing silent disapproval for his mention of the other *rav* by his last name. The boy asked his question again, this time naming the *rav* with his title.

Rav Dovid turned to the boy and responded, "By my father (Rav Velvel) we didn't talk about people, only about ideas."

Ideas are debatable. Discussing ideas, rather than the people who hold them, leads to clarification of the truth. Discussing people, on the other hand, can lead only to *loshon hora*. Rav Dovid exemplified the ability to disagree with another person's position, but to still hold him in the highest esteem.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can you prevent discussions about ideas from turning into personal criticism?

Eleven-year-old Boruch loved his digital camera. On a family trip to Har Cheron in the wintertime, wanting to remember every moment, he took 567 pictures.

On the way home his younger brother begged, "Let me see the pictures!"

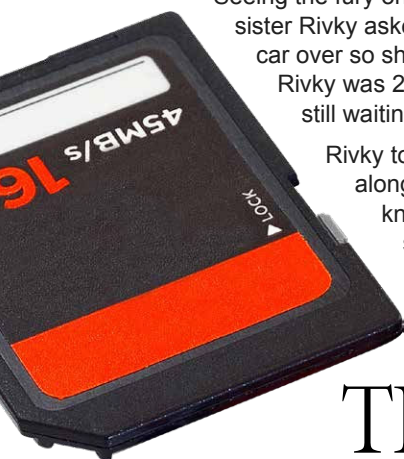
"Not until I upload them on the computer," Boruch insisted. Then he drifted off to sleep and his curious little brother grabbed the camera. The next thing Boruch heard was a frantic conversation among his siblings.

"Where are the pictures? Did he delete them?" they wondered as they pressed the camera's buttons.

"It's OK," Boruch piped up. "There's a memory card." He retrieved his camera to show them...but the card was missing! He realized that it must have fallen out at Mount Cheron when another sibling had handled the camera.

Seeing the fury on Boruch's face, his sister Rivky asked her father to pull the car over so she could talk to Boruch. Rivky was 27, kind and wise – and still waiting to find her *bashert*.

Rivky took Boruch for a walk along the side of the road. "I know how angry you are," she said, "but I once



IT WAS IN THE CARDS

showed the pictures to a few people to try to identify the owner. The boy, Eliezer, was holding the card for Boruch.

Boruch and his father drove to Yerushalayim to get the

memory card from Eliezer, who turned out to be the perfect kind of boy for Rivky. Shortly afterwards, Rivky and Eliezer were engaged!

The lost memory card that led Eliezer to Rivky was Hashem's clear message that nothing is lost – and everything is gained – by letting go of our anger, even when we're right.

heard that if someone overcomes his anger even when he's completely right, he has the *zechus* to ask Hashem for something really big."

Boruch answered: "OK. I want you to get married. I'm going to control myself as a *zechus*." Rivky returned to the car with her surprisingly calm brother.

Two weeks later, Boruch's father got a call from a friend. He explained that an American yeshivah student he knew had found a memory card on Har Cheron and

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TALK ABOUT IT

Do we have a "right to get angry" when someone does something wrong to us?

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