



SHABBOS MENU

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“LET ME DESCRIBE HOW STINGY HE IS”

You're a bit shocked to see someone give a flat “no” to a neighbor who is asking for a favor. It seems that others really don't know who this person is beneath her friendly exterior. May you reveal what you saw?

THE DILEMMA

Three young mothers are waiting at the bus stop for their kindergarteners to return home from school. They are friends and neighbors who often run errands for each other and watch each other's children. Today one mother, Naomi, tells her friend Rivka, “I have a dentist appointment tomorrow morning. If it takes longer than I expect, could you get Sarala off the bus and keep her with you until I get back?”

With a smile on her face, Rivka answers, “No, I can't do that.” No excuse, no explanation, just “no.” After the children arrive, Naomi walks off in one direction, while Rivka, and the third friend, Miriam, head in the other. “I hate to be mean, but the last two times I asked Naomi to watch my kids, she refused without giving any reason whatsoever either” Rivka explains.

“Wow, today I found out something surprising about Rivka, ‘Mrs. Chessed,’” Miriam later tells her husband. Since Rivka has violated several *mitzvos bein adam lachaveiro* with her refusal, may Miriam relate the conversation?

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

Because Miriam's report will do nothing to help Naomi and only serve to disparage, it is *loshon hora*.

*Sefer
Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos
Loshon Hora, 5:1*



WEEKLY WISDOM

*The sin of *loshon hora* is so serious that Hashem prescribed a special punishment for someone who falls into it, *chas v'shalom*—the affliction of *tzaraas*, as described in this week's *parshiyos*.*

*Today, Hashem no longer afflicts a violator with *tzaraas* or demands performance of the atonement process as set forth in the Torah, but the sin is no less potent and harmful.*

*By learning the halachos of *Shmiras Haloshon* daily, we can fortify ourselves and our families against the *yetzer hara* to speak or listen to negative words.*

We can be among those who turn the tide and eradicate this scourge from our midst!

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

“Peace is the
king
of all character traits,
and it must be
guarded
very carefully.”

— Akeidah, Bamidbar 6:24, Shaar 74

Chaim Steinberg* was in the midst of his first *Shacharis* at Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim. As an American, he hadn't realized until the last minute that he would be required, as a *Kohen*, to participate in *Birkas Kohanim* that is performed every day in Israel. He needed a *tallis* right away, but where could he find one?

He asked a man standing near the *bimah* if he could borrow his *tallis*, but the man was himself a *Kohen*. Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel, the Mirrer Rosh Yeshiva, noticed what was going on and offered Chaim his own *tallis*. Chaim hesitated: How could he borrow the revered Rosh Yeshiva's *tallis*? But an onlooker gave him a slight poke and whispered, "When the Rosh Yeshiva offers you his *tallis*, you take it!"

The Rosh Yeshiva, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, was meanwhile slowly removing his *tallis*. He gave it to Chaim with shaking hands, and Chaim had the memorable privilege of wearing Rav Nosson Tzvi's *tallis* on that first morning at the Mir.

The following year, Chaim entered the *shidduch* process. The brother of a prospective match called Chaim's friend for information. The friend sang Chaim's praises. Then, to show Chaim's lively side, the friend said, "Once he borrowed Rav Nosson Tzvi's *tallis*!"

The girl's mother, hearing this information, thought Chaim was



'A LITTLE OFF'

perhaps "a little off" socially. However, because this information didn't match up with everything else she had heard, she went forward with the *shidduch*. The couple went out and after a few dates, Chaim told the *tallis* story. Now it all made sense! Chaim ultimately married this girl

sage advice



'I CARE, BUT WHAT CAN I DO?'

We all know people who are in pain: the aunt who still hasn't gotten married, the sister who's been waiting so long for a child, the grandparent whose health is deteriorating; the brother who can't find a job. So often we want to help but there seems little that we can do. We *daven*, try to be encouraging, and let them know that we're there for them. But now we can do much more.

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and is now a *maggid shiur* raising a beautiful family.

However, Chaim's friend had played with fire. He told a half-baked story the way he recalled it, rather than as it really happened.

Fortunately, the mother's wisdom in handling the information saved the *shidduch*.

Adapted from a story by Yitzchok Hisiger, *Yated Ne'eman*

*Name has been changed.

TALK ABOUT IT

The boy who told the story meant well but almost destroyed the *shidduch*. How can we avoid making the same mistake?

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ה.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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