

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS BEHAR-BECHUKOSAI 5781 • ISSUE 239

'HOW CAN A RAV NOT KNOW THAT?'

Whoops! Your rav turns out to be fallible. He didn't know something that most educated people know, and now you're wondering, what else doesn't he know? Is he really any more capable of making decisions on halachah than you are?

THE DILEMMA

Rabbi Bloom broke his own rule one Shabbos morning when he referred to a scientific fact in a speech he was making to his congregation. His rule, "Stick to Torah. No politics, no science," had worked well throughout the 10 years he led his shul, but now, with the corona pandemic foremost on everyone's mind, he offered an opinion based on medical information as he understood it.

Unfortunately for him, his explanation was a bit off the mark. That was not lost on Dr. Morris, one of the pillars of the shul and a well-known cardiologist.

"He misunderstood the simplest thing in the world," Dr. Morris told another member of the shul, a prominent lawyer. "It's as if he didn't know that the earth is round. You know, I always wondered about some of his ideas and the way he answers *she'eilos* and now I know why. Honestly, I don't think he's all that bright."

The lawyer agreed. He shared Dr. Morris's opinion with others and soon, many in the congregation believed that Rabbi Bloom's understanding of the world was severely limited. Instead of listening to his speeches with an open mind, they began scrutinizing: Is it really so? Little by little, Rabbi Bloom's authority was eroded. When his contract came up for renewal, many felt it was time to find someone who commanded more respect. Is Dr. Morris responsible for Rabbi Bloom's troubles?

THE HALACHAH

Yes. Disparaging the intelligence of a Torah scholar, *dayan* or *rav* is a particularly harmful form of *loshon hora* because it causes people to reject their guidance and rulings, thereby rejecting the Torah's laws.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 5:2*



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

The Impressions issues are inspiring, interesting and encouraging! They are worth their weight in gold!

Thank you very much for all the thought and energy you put into this project; you can't imagine how deeply your words enter our hearts.

Tizku lechol tuv.

*B. Stern
Bais Yaakov High School of Passaic
Yeshiva Ketana of Passaic*

Ed: Impressions is a CCHF biweekly newsletter for educators. To bring Impressions to your school or for more information, email: Impressions@cchfglobal.org



PASSAIC

**FOR QUESTIONS AND
COMMENTS, EMAIL**
Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"One who is
pleasing to his
 fellow
man is pleasing
to
 Hashem."
- Pirkei Avos 3:10

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS
MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH" T

One morning, Mindy called to ask me for the telephone number of our friend Devora. Mindy had found a wallet on the outdoor steps of her building. She remembered that Devora was hosting a clothing sale in her apartment that morning. Maybe someone heading for the sale dropped her wallet, perhaps while going up the steps with a stroller. If she called Devora immediately, she might catch the woman before she even reached for her wallet and found it missing.

Though Mindy's theory seemed far-fetched, it was exactly as she had thought! The wallet's owner asked Mindy to wait a few minutes until she could come down to get it.

During those few minutes an elderly woman appeared, struggling with a weighty shopping wagon. Wanting to help, Mindy asked the woman where she was headed. When she mentioned an address several blocks away, Mindy begged her to wait until the wallet was returned, so she could walk the woman home.

Minutes later, with the wallet back in its owner's hands, Mindy accompanied the elderly woman to her second-floor apartment. Noticing the woman's pale face, she decided to stay for a while to make sure the woman was all right.

After an hour of light conversation, Mindy felt it was time to leave. She reached for her wallet, but it was missing. When she didn't see it anywhere in the apartment, she went outside to check the sidewalk. Just then her cell phone rang. "Is this Mrs. Konig? Did you lose a wallet?" the caller asked.

It seems that the wallet had fallen from Mindy's pocket as she assisted the elderly woman. A *bachur* picked it up and found a Health Fund ID card inside. He went to the nearby clinic and got the telephone number

of the card's owner. Naturally, all this took time; if Mindy hadn't stayed with the woman, she would have discovered the wallet's disappearance earlier, giving her plenty of time to agonize over it.

"How can I get the wallet to you?" the young man asked. "Where are you?"

"I'm next to building 61..."



LOST (AGAIN), FOUND (AGAIN)

A true story

BY DEVORAH REICHEL



"Perfect! I'm in the yeshivah across the street. See me?" he waved to Mindy from a few yards away, holding up the wallet. With no effort and barely any anxiety, Mindy had her wallet back.

TALK ABOUT IT

How does this story illustrate the words of *Tehillim* (121:5), "Hashem is your shadow"?

לע"ג חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל

נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש
" אלול תשע"ז
ה.ת.צ.ב.ה.

To Join
**THE SHABBOS TABLE
MACHSOM L'FI**
Visit: powerofspeech.org/shabbos
or in the USA, text: **shabbos to 313131**

Free
Inspiration
24/6
CHAZAK
INSPIRATION LINE
Free Inspiration - 24 Hours a Day
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

THE BEST INSURANCE

If a person pays a million dollars for a house, wouldn't he be willing to pay a few thousand more for homeowner's insurance? Of course; he knows that this small investment protects a huge investment.

This is the logic of Shmiras Haloshon Yomi. Loshon hora is the fire that can burn down everything else. The Chofetz Chaim warns that all our Torah learning and *tefillah* can be reduced to ashes when the mouth that speaks these holy words is tainted by loshon hora. Shmiras Haloshon protects these merits we work so hard to acquire, and thereby opens our life to *brachah*.

Rav Yehudah Zev Segal, zt"l, who created the Shmiras Haloshon Yomi calendar, testified that families who undertook learning two *halachos* a day invariably experienced some *yeshuah*. *Middah k'neged middah*, when we show compassion to Hashem's children, He shows compassion to us.

For all its incredible benefits, Shmiras Haloshon Yomi takes only minutes a day. For the past 30 years, the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation has been developing and

disseminating learning tools in every conceivable format, suited to every schedule. Anyone can learn it and all who do will reap its rich rewards: a life of *shalom* and *brachah*.

Explore the options at cchf.global. NEW CYCLE BEGINS Wednesday, May 12, Rosh Chodesh Sivan.

**NEW SHMIRAS HALOSHON
YOMI CYCLE BEGINS**
ROSH CHODESH SIVAN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

שומר
פיו ולשונו
שומר
מצרת נפשו

"One who guards his
mouth and tongue,
guards himself from hardships."

משלי פ' כ"א:ב"ג



LEARN BY BOOK



LEARN BY Email

cchf.global

CHOFETZ CHAIM HERITAGE FOUNDATION



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