

# SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS RE'EIH 5781 • ISSUE 252

## 'SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT'

*Once you hear something negative about someone, it's hard to "unhear" it. What happens when you realize that you're not looking at that person the same way anymore? Are you doomed to live forever with the aveirah and the results of having accepted loshon hora?*

### THE

## DILEMMA

"Did you know that the Goldbergs got a divorce?" Esther asks her friend Malka.

"But why? They seemed like such a happy couple," Malka responds.

"Well, apparently, she isn't what she seems. I think there are anger issues," Esther says. "I heard that she only has the kids every other week. That says a lot."

"That's so strange," Malka observes. "We used to go to a *shiur* together and she was so sweet! Amazing how people can fake it."

For months, Malka sees Mrs. Goldberg around town and thinks, "What's with her?" When Mrs. Goldberg calls to see if Malka's daughter would like to join her daughter for a swim in the Goldbergs' pool, Malka makes an excuse, thinking, "Can I trust her to watch them?"

One day Mrs. Goldberg meets Malka in the supermarket and strikes up a conversation. It seems so normal. "Maybe there's more to the picture than I know," Malka wonders. She begins to feel a bit evil, harboring negative thoughts about her neighbor. "I wish Esther hadn't told me anything," she thinks. Can Malka undo the damage?

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

If Malka believed loshon hora but has not spread it, she can do *teshuvah*.

She has to work to root out her negative impression of Mrs. Goldberg, resolve not to accept any *loshon hora* in the future, and verbally confess her sin to Hashem.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim  
Hilchos Loshon Hora 6:12*



## PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*The Yesodei Haloshon program has proved to be a wonderful experience for both the girls and me. The girls have gained tremendously from the skills they learn. The lessons are taught in a positive, clear and thought-provoking way. They are really making inroads in the way the students communicate with others.*

– A sixth-grade English teacher

*Ed.: Visit [cchf.global/school-programs/catalog](http://cchf.global/school-programs/catalog) for more info about our school programs that reach more than 52,000 students.*

## FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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

"Be liberal  
with your

*deaths,*  
not your  
*words."*

– R' Bachya ibn Pekuda

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS

MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

**A**haron and Miriam get married and in due time, a baby boy is born. The child's first month of life is accompanied by the joyful celebrations of a *bris* and a *pidyon haben*. However, when Binyamin is five months old, something strange occurs. He develops a terrible odor, a stench like that of a corpse, which no amount of bathing can erase. His parents take him to doctors and specialists, but none can pinpoint the source of the little boy's terrible odor.

Aharon's father weighs in: "You've tried everything you could. Now we need to need a *Gadol* to advise us." Since the father's *rebbe* is Rav Vosner in Eretz Yisrael, he suggests that Aharon accompany him there to seek guidance. Father and son depart as soon as possible. They travel from the airport directly to Rav Vosner's apartment and lay out their strange situation.

"What is the baby's name?" asks the Rav. The baby's grandfather replies, "Binyamin, after my father."

"Why is that? The first baby's name is supposed to go to the mother."

The grandfather explains that his *mechutan* is a difficult, abrasive person. The two sides are barely on speaking terms. It seemed far simpler to take the name from the father's side.

Rav Vosner is emphatic: "Now I know what's wrong. This is the stench of *machlokes*!" Turning to Aharon, he says, "Go into my office, call your father-in-law, ask *mechilah* and ask what name he wants to give. You'll add that name to the name you've

## IT SMELLS LIKE MACHLOKES

Aharon tells Rav Vosner that he can't bring himself to do that. "Do you mean you came all the way to Eretz Yisrael to ask my advice and now you won't take it?"

Aharon realizes that he is being blind and foolish. He makes the call.

When Miriam comes to pick up her husband and father-in-law at the airport the next day, they receive great news. "About nine hours ago," she says in wonder, "the smell just went away."

*Heard from Rabbi Ari Neuwirth, citing Rav Elimelech Biderman*

### TALK ABOUT IT

Why is it difficult to forgive someone when you believe you are right?

### TALK ABOUT IT

What are some features that *machlokes* and a foul odor have in common?

## sage advice

### WHAT'S REALLY REAL?

"Don't tell me you were joking. I know an insult when I hear one," said a man to his cousin.

"Don't tell me what I meant!" he replied. "No one would take what I said as an insult. You just want to feel bad for yourself."

Which is the truth? The man has his reality and the cousin has his. Can both be the truth? Rav Shimon Schwab taught that the only accurate definition of truth – *emes* – is "Hashem's reality." That is the truth that encompasses everything – all facts, all feelings, all intentions, all consequences.

Everything else is someone's interpretation of the reality he is experiencing. The man in the story suffers from low self-esteem. Therefore, he interprets neutral comments to be insults. The cousin suffers from arrogance. Therefore, he states things in an abrasive way. Only Hashem knows where the balance lies.

Knowing that reality exists in Hashem's realm alone opens our hearts to forgiving others. We realize that what we think is the truth is only our perception of the truth. Furthermore, the other person has his perception of the truth. We are all trying to live according to the truth, and the more we define our life by the Torah, the more we tap into Hashem's truth. Aside from Him, no one has a monopoly on reality. We can find it within ourselves to forgive another person for seeing the world through the one pair of eyes he's been given.

**ORDER YOUR  
FREE MAGNET TODAY  
AT CCHF.GLOBAL**

**“HASHHEM,  
PLEASE  
WATCH  
OVER  
KLAL  
YISRAEL”**

  
MintCapital

Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation  
CCHF.GLOBAL



## 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.

**18,000 daily  
emails**

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן  
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל  
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש  
א' 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

  
**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