



FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT  
TO SPARK  
CONVERSATION

# SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS CHOL HAMOED 5782 • ISSUE 259

## MOB MENTALITY

*Everyone is saying the same thing about a certain person. Can they all be wrong?*

### THE DILEMMA

One Shabbos, in the middle of the Rabbi's speech about the *kashrus* of a new product on the market, Menachem, one of the shul's longtime members, leaped to his feet and marched out the door. He didn't come back for Mussaf. At the *kiddush* after *davening*, one of Menachem's neighbors reported that he had witnessed Menachem buying the product in question despite the Rabbi's warning that its *hechsher* was not valid.

By the time Shabbos was over, most of the shul was convinced that Menachem's standard of *kashrus* was beneath that of the *kehillah* and people should not eat at his house. Dovid, another shul member, heard this information from two men in his afternoon *Daf Yomi shiur* and from another few acquaintances at Minchah. Was he justified in believing what everyone was telling him?



### THE HALACHAH

People who speak *loshon hora* are acting as *resha'im* – evildoers – and, as such, are not to be believed, especially when reporting that another Jew has broken a Torah commandment. When many are repeating the story, they are acting as a group of *resha'im* and are diminishing, not increasing, their credibility.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,  
Hilchos  
Loshon  
Hora, 7:3*

## PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the difference you have made to my community, my family and myself.*

*Your Tisha B'Av program was truly remarkable. I feel I have been given fresh perspectives in key areas of my life.*

*I would also like to thank you for the 9-Days series, the Live Life Better series, and the Shalom Challenge. Thank you for reminding me of the importance of constantly pursuing shalom and for helping me tackle my growth in shalom in very manageable steps.*

*Looking forward to continuing this journey,*

*Thank you and kind regards*

*B. S.  
Johannesburg, South Africa*

SOUTH AFRICA

### FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Hashem says,  
'I have found  
*no better*  
vessel for *brachah* than  
*shalom*.'"

- Uktzin 3:12

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.

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**T**he Skulener Rebbe held a *seudas hoda'ah* every year on Motzoei Shabbos Nachamu. One year he organized the *seudah* in the hamlet of Gibbers, where the Vizhnitzer Yeshivah is located. After Shabbos, the Rebbe overheard some men deriding Vizhnitzer *chassidim*, calling them selfish and mean-spirited.

The Rebbe was distressed. Vizhnitz was known for its generosity and high standards of conduct. He decided to find out what was behind the men's harsh words.

"A lot of people came for the *seudah* and the parking was tight," one man explained. "So a few people parked outside the house of one of the Vizhnitzer families. And do you know what the man who owned the house did? We saw it with our own eyes. He had the cars towed! Now those people have to hunt for their cars late at night. And even when they locate their cars, it will cost them a fortune to get them back!"

Now the Rebbe understood the men's outrage, but he also knew there was another side to the story. He contacted the man in question and asked him, "Why did you do this?"

He never could have predicted the man's reply. "My father, who lives with me, volunteers for Hatzolah," he explained. "If he

## RIGHT FACTS, WRONG CONCLUSION

comes home in the middle of the night and finds no room on the street for him to park, it could create a situation of *pikuach nefesh*. I called the tow truck and had the driver bring the cars to the Vizhnitzer Yeshivah. It's just a few minutes' walk from my house. Anyone who asked what happened to his car was directed to the yeshivah."

"But what about the cost of the towing?" the Rebbe persisted.

"It didn't cost them a penny," the man replied. "I paid for it out of my own pocket!"

### TALK ABOUT IT

Rather than speak *loshon hora* about the Vizhnitz community, what should these men have done about a situation in which they thought they had seen a great injustice occurring?

## sage advice

# LOOKING FOR THE GOOD APPLES

### *What You Seek, You Find*



If your job is to find the rotten apples in a bushel, you see all the brown spots and bruises. You say, "Apples can be ugly."

If your job is to find the most perfect apples, your eyes focus on the rosier, shiniest specimens. You say, "Apples are a beautiful creation."

**What we say depends on what we see, and what we see depends on what we look for.**

*Rabbi Teitelbaum never met a student he didn't love. He had a lifetime career of teaching boys whom no other yeshivah would take. Where others saw issues, Rabbi Teitelbaum saw talent, kindness, intellect and oceans of energy. No one could get him to utter a negative word about his boys, because he saw nothing negative.*

Because Rabbi Teitelbaum focused on the good in his students, he had no negative thoughts to express; *shmiras haloshon* came naturally. He saw all that was shiny and perfect — not because he was fooling himself, but because it was really there.

G-d made a good world and gave us the job of seeking out the good apples. When we do our job, *shmiras haloshon* and all of its blessings follow naturally.

**Ever answer a shidduch call?**

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

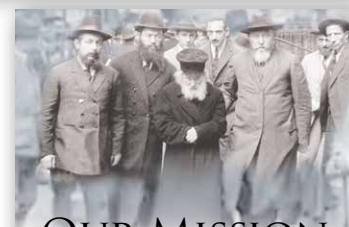
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