

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS LECH LECHA 5782 • ISSUE 262

'I READ ALL ABOUT IT'

When we read a new article or hear a widespread report of wrongdoing, it seems to have more credibility than a bit of gossip passing among a few friends. Does it really?

T H E

DILEMMA

The owner of a local drug store is arrested for falsifying insurance claims. His store is the subject of a dramatic police bust and he is taken away in handcuffs.

The town "shopper," which carries ads and local news, features the story on the page facing an ad for the weekly specials at the kosher department of the supermarket. Everyone sees the story, which includes a picture of the man turning away from the camera, being pushed into the back seat of a police car.

You recognize the man in the picture right away. So does everyone else in your small community. When someone tells you that, according to the news story, the man embezzled \$2.4 million dollars over the course of seven years, may you believe him?



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.

WEEKLY WISDOM

In this week's parshah, Hashem commands Avraham with the words "lech lecha," which is translated as "go for yourself." Rashi asks why the words "for yourself" are added, when the simple command to "go" would convey the thought just as well. His answer is that Hashem is telling Avraham that the journey and all it entails will be for his benefit, "for yourself."

*This idea holds true whenever we set out to overcome a challenge. The trials we endure and efforts we expend along the way bring us to a new and better place in life. So this week, when you begin your Shabbos Table Machsom L'Fi, remember that it's "for yourself." Even though you're keeping the mitzvah of *shmiras haloshon* for Hashem, and you're dedicating your efforts as a *zechus* for a friend, it's your Shabbos table, your home and your family that will reap the benefits of *shalom* and *achdus*.*

Have yourself a beautiful Shabbos!

— Rabbi Neuberger

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"As

Water
extinguishes fire,

so does

silence
nullify the strength of anger."

— Pele Yoetz, Ka'as

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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH" T

‘THE SHIDDUCH IS OFF!’

Rav Boruch Frankel-Teumim, known as the Boruch Taam, waited in his home for the arrival of his soon-to-be *mechutanim*.

Tonight his child was to be engaged, and a feeling of *simchah* permeated the air.

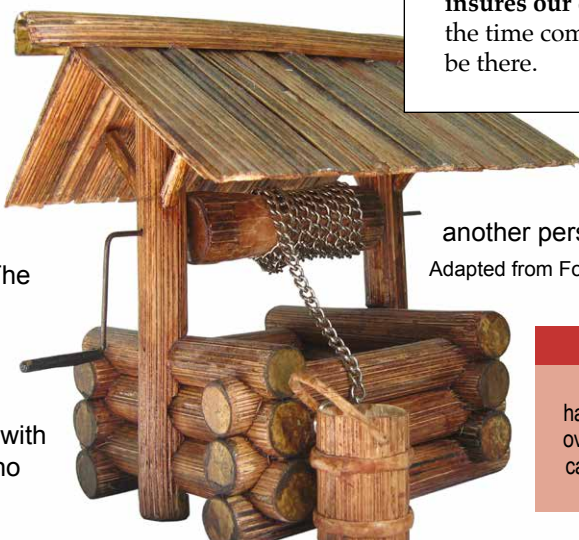
As he waited, someone told him disturbing news. The local water carrier had become ill. The Boruch Taam’s face registered his deep concern about the situation. “Who is going to support the water carrier and his family?” he asked. “He can’t work while he’s ill and that means they won’t have a *parnassah*. What will be with them?”

His mind was now preoccupied by the water carrier’s plight. What could be done to help?

Soon the *mechutanim* arrived, ready to finalize the *shidduch*. However, the Boruch Taam’s mind was elsewhere. “Did you hear about the water carrier?” he asked the *mechutanim*. “This can become a tragedy if the family doesn’t get some financial help right away. We must do something!”

The *mechutanim* looked at each other in bewilderment. “We’re here to celebrate a *simchah*,” the *mechutan* responded. “Why are you worrying about the water carrier at a time like this?”

The words hit the Boruch Taam like a splash of ice-water. “The *shidduch* is off,” he announced. “I can’t be *meshadech* with someone who



doesn’t take to heart the plight of another person who is in pain.”

Adapted from Food for Thought in *Yated Ne’eman*

TALK ABOUT IT

How sharply must the Boruch Taam have felt the water-carrier’s pain for it to overcome his own *simchah*? Even if we cannot emulate this, what can we learn from it?

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sage advice

OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT'S BEEN HACKED!



How to Protect Your Heavenly Account

Your bank’s motto is “We’re not just your bank. We’re your friend.” Now your “friend” has texted you that your account has fallen below \$50.00 and is subject to low-balance charges.

“How can that be?” you wonder. “That account had \$14,732.99 in it.” When you get your “friend” on the phone, he informs you that an online transfer was made that very morning, leaving you with \$32.99.

How does it feel to lose everything you thought you had?

Meira was “the mitzvoah lady.” She had a few favorites: Making shidduchim, supporting special programs for troubled teens, and offering informal counseling to married couples.

Because of her involvement with other people’s troubles, Meira was a storehouse of private information. Within her circle of closest friends it always leaked out, even though she tried to be discreet by keeping names out of her stories. Where the stories went from there was anyone’s guess.

Meira believes she is preparing wisely for the World to Come, stashing away an overflowing account of merit. She doesn’t see the invisible hacker—her *loshon hora*—draining away every merit she deposits. **Shmiras Haloshon insures our deposit** so that when the time comes to collect, it will all be there.

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