

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS VAYEIRAH 5782 • ISSUE 263

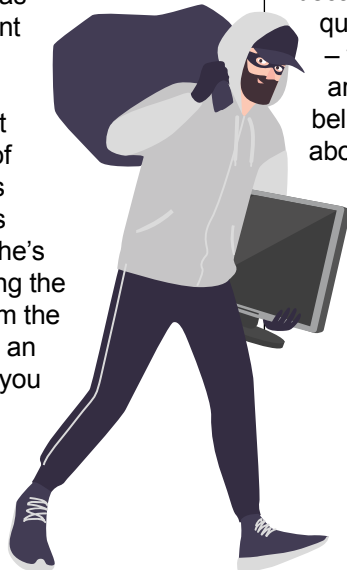
HE'S BAD NEWS

When someone has established himself as a person who breaks all normal standards of behavior, may you accept as truth a report that he's done it again?

T H E

DILEMMA

Somehow, a boy who grew up in your neighborhood and davened in your shul took a serious turn for the worse and became involved in a Mafia-like criminal group that disguised itself as an investment firm. He went to jail for spearheading a scheme that robbed hundreds of people – most of them elderly widows – of their life savings. Now he's free, but you heard he was arrested again. This time, he's been accused of kidnapping the son of a rival criminal. From the news stories, it seems like an open-and-shut case. May you believe it?



T H E

HALACHAH

Just as we are permitted to speak loшон hora about a *rasha* because he no longer qualifies as *amisecha* – your people – we are permitted to believe loшон hora about him.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon
Hora 7:5*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

A number of months ago my daughter-in-law was in critical condition in the ICU at a hospital in Israel. A friend of mine started a *shmiras haloshon* group via your organization as a *zechus* for her.

B"H after intense davening and *maasim tovim* and, of course, our 40 days of *shmiras haloshon*, she has finally recovered, and she is now home with her family. It is a miracle.

Thank you for your wonderful organization. *Shmiras haloshon saves lives!*

Berg Family

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"One should flee from a group of idle

chatterers

as from a

fire!"

– Sefer *Shmiras HaLoshon*,
Shaar *HaZechirah* Ch.14

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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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y



The year was 1944. The location was Hungary. A Jewish woman, the mother of seven children, had worked for years running the finances of her family's real estate business. She was known by Jews and non-Jews alike for her integrity. Because of the high regard in which she was held, the mayor of her city felt impelled to warn her that the Nazis were about to deport the city's Jews. "Get away while you still can," he advised her.

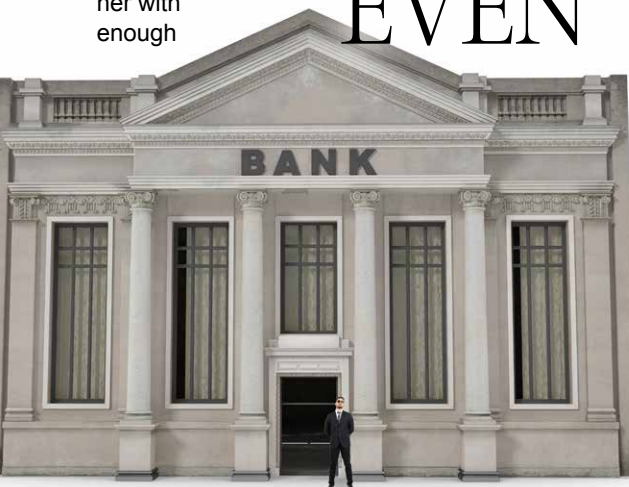
The woman heeded the mayor's advice, but she had no money with which to flee. All of it was tied up in real estate, and at that point, no gentile would buy real estate from a Jew. They knew that soon it would all be up for grabs.

The woman decided to travel to a nearby town to see a banker who she heard might be willing to help her. When she arrived at the bank, the security guard asked what she wanted. "I need a favor," she said. The guard laughed. "Lady, you've got the wrong man. My boss is a mean, selfish person. He doesn't do favors for anyone!"

Shocked at the guard's demeaning words, she scolded, "Shame on you! He gives you a livelihood. How can you be so ungrateful and speak about him like that?"

Before the guard could answer, a booming voice emanated from the balcony above. "Send that woman up to see me!" the boss commanded. He had heard every word of the conversation.

The boss's appreciation for the woman's staunch defense made him receptive to her plea. He bought her property, providing her with enough



EVEN THE BOSS

money to get her family out of harm's way. In a further magnanimous move, he returned the property to her after the war.

As the story illustrates, when Shlomo HaMelech tells us, "Life and death are in the hands of the tongue," he is speaking the literal truth. No one – not even an irritable boss – is fair game for our verbal arrows.

TALK ABOUT IT

What difficulties can a person avoid by being careful with his speech?

sage advice

WEATHER -MAKER

How We Affect the Atmosphere



Imagine you could control the weather.

Would you want to set loose a fierce hurricane that arouses tremendous fear? Dump a soaking rain on children who, just a moment before, were playing in the sun?

The thunder clouds gathered over Sweet Tooth, the popular candy store. Once it had been the happiest, friendliest shop in the city. But now, under the relentlessly critical gaze of the new manager, the staff had turned surly, and the customers felt the tension. The sun only broke through when the manager took a rare day off. It was the same building, the same staff and the same candy. But with the manager around, it was a different world.

With negative words, **you influence the atmosphere of other people's lives.** You can make a secure person nervous and a happy person sad, turn a sweet moment sour—or you can turn on the sunshine and let everyone bask in the warmth your words create.

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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.

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