



SHABBOS
CHANUKAH

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS MIKEITZ 5782 • ISSUE 269

JUST LIKE A WIFE

The close, daily interactions of a married couple leave plenty of room for irritations and disagreements, whether with the spouse or the in-laws or both. Can't a person tell his own parents or siblings about his distress? Doesn't everyone?

T H E

DILEMMA

By Week 2 of his marriage, Jacob had discovered that his wife Rebecca's close-knit family was very close—very, very close—way too close! His mother-in-law needed daily reports from his wife about what she did, where she went, what she was cooking, how she was feeling, how Jacob was feeling, whether or not he liked what she cooked, and so on. Whatever intelligence her mother failed to gather from Rebecca was supplied by her five sisters, who also spoke to her on a daily basis.

"Is this normal?" he asked his brother Dave, who had been married two years already.

"It's women," Dave informed him. "My wife's the same. It was like I married her entire family. Women take a longer time to grow up."

"Yeah, I know what you mean," Jacob said, suddenly feeling like a man who is wise to the ways of the world.

Since then, whenever he's annoyed about his wife's behavior, Jacob indulges in a "that's women" conversation with Dave. Are these conversations *loshon hora*?

T H E

HALACHAH

A person is not allowed to speak disparagingly about his or her spouse or in-laws, even to his or her own parents. Doing so is *loshon hora*.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:2*



ADDING LIGHT

*On Shabbos Chanukah we are surrounded by lights as the Chanukah candles join the Shabbos candles, bringing spiritual light into our homes. Hillel taught that we add another candle each night, so that we are always adding light. We follow Hillel's advice in a beautiful way when we bring *shmiras haloshon* to our Shabbos Table, adding the light of the mitzvah to the light of Shabbos, using the Shabbos Table Machsom L'Fi to turn up the spiritual voltage in our lives and shine our brightest.*

— Rabbi Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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"Two are

better

than one...

for should they fall,

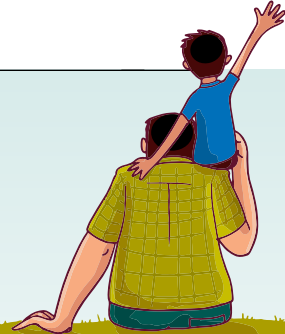
one can

lift the other."

— Koheles 4:10

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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sage advice

LOVE ME, LOVE MY KIDS

How to 'Get in Good' with Our Father

It is nearly impossible to love someone who doesn't like your children. When someone insults your children, you take it personally because your children are a part of you.

Shmuel looked around the Seder table at his children. There was Shlomo, his black hat perched on his head; Dovid in a full beard and long peyos; Devorah, in from Israel, bedecked with a multi-layered head-scarf; and Leah in her sleek sheitel. And then, of course, there were the spouses and children, whose styles reflected those of their families.

For many years, the children didn't get along. They constantly fought over their different approaches to life, and finally Shmuel had stopped inviting them to the Seder — it was too painful. This year, Devorah took charge and woke them all up to the huge cost of their fighting. Now, with a silent "Thank You, Hashem!" and tears of joy in his eyes, Shmuel began the Hagadah.

With words of loshon hora against our brothers and sisters, we hurt our Father most of all. "If you love Me," Hashem says, "you have to love My children." Only when we "get over ourselves" and recognize the ties that bind us, will Hashem finally welcome us home.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why is it sometimes difficult to see another Jew as a child of Hashem? How can we counteract these reasons?

Yaffa had promised herself that she wouldn't let it come down to the wire, but it had. If she did not apply for passports for her two teenage children on this very day, they would not be on their plane to Israel. She had gathered all the necessary documents, arrived at the office as early as possible, and was now standing in line with all the others, hoping for Divine mercy and good fortune in dealing with the wheels of bureaucracy.

An agent of the passport office announced that anyone who was missing any documents would be unable to apply that day. She moved down the line making sure people had what they needed when they finally got their turn at the counter. Yaffa pulled out her documents to have them at the ready.

Among the items she would be asked to present were the two checks, one for each child, with which to pay the passport fees. As she rummaged in her purse, she came to the deflating realization that she had forgotten her checkbook. Now what?

She called her mother-in-law, who lived nearby, to ask if she would come to the passport office and give her two checks.

The agent, clearly bored and irritated with her job, came to Yaffa to check her documents. With the arrogance that comes from a little bit of power, the agent told her that she would not be allowed to apply that day. Yaffa tried to reason with her, offering to go to the back of the line and wait there until someone brought her the checks. The agent wasn't budging, and neither was Yaffa. She needed her children to take their flight!

The small ruckus attracted the attention of one of the Jewish men further up in the line. "Here, I have checks for her," he interrupted, and he gave Yaffa, whom

he had never met, two blank checks with which to pay her fee. He didn't flinch at allowing

A KINDNESS IN THE NICK OF TIME

her to draw several hundred dollars from his account; why pass up a

chessed?

"When the whole thing resolved, I wondered why I was worried," she says. "I should have known Hashem had the situation in hand!"

TALK ABOUT IT

What made the man decide to be the one to step in and help?

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