

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION



SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS VA'EIRA 5782 • ISSUE 273

NO ROOM FOR ERROR

Torah scholars are often public figures, which means their rulings and words of mussar reach many people, some of whom are bound to take exception to what they have said. If you are among those who are displeased, what can you do about it?

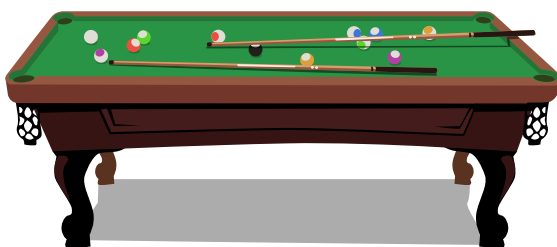
T H E

DILEMMA

Alarmed at the number of teenaged boys straying from the straight path, a group of adults in the community came up with an idea: a youth center. It would be a safe place for teens to gather. There would be plenty of food, pool tables, ping-pong, music, and also a few rooms where mentors could spend time talking and learning with boys who wanted to participate.

This was a first for the town. "It's not proper," some protested. When the rabbi of the town's largest shul gave his blessing to the enterprise, the naysayers didn't back down. Instead, they began disparaging him. "He's kowtowing to the rich guys who put this whole plan together," they said among themselves. "This is dead wrong, and he knows it."

Are these men allowed to express their disagreement with the rabbi's position?



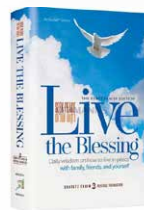
T H E

HALACHAH

While people can respectfully disagree, based on other legitimate Torah principles, disparaging a Torah scholar is a grave sin that leads to serious consequences, since without Torah scholars, Torah observance would cease.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:4*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK



Hi. I really enjoyed and learned a lot from the sefer Live the Blessing.

Thank you!

Shira Klugmann

Editor: To purchase *Live the Blessing* visit cchf.global/shop, or call 845.352.3505 ext. 5. Also available at all Jewish bookstores.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"It is only right for a person to be

more
concerned about his
speech
than his property."

— Rambam, Iggeres HaShmad, ch.1

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

THREE CANDIES AND TESHUVAH

A young man from Bnei Brak left his parents and took up residence with a secular uncle in Tel Aviv. Gradually he drifted farther from his Jewish identity, until one day he announced his engagement to a non-Jewish girl.

Even the young man's uncle was shocked. Unable to change the boy's mind, the uncle told his nephew, "You need to tell your parents face-to-face what you're doing."

The boy called his father and told him he would like to come home for Shabbos, but on his own terms. On Shabbos afternoon, as he sat scrolling through his smartphone, his father asked, "Do you want to come with me to Rav Aharon Leib's (Shteinman) *shiur*?"

The boy agreed. After the *shiur* his father brought him to greet the *gadol*. "My son is no longer *shomer Shabbos*," the father told Rav Aharon Leib. The Rav asked the young man how long ago he had stopped keeping Shabbos. "Two years," he replied.

"In that time, have you ever thought of *teshuvah*?" Rav Aharon Leib asked. He answered that he had had such thoughts four times.

"And how long did you think about this each time?" Rav Aharon Leib continued.

"About 10 minutes," said the boy.

"So in the past two years, you've spent 40 minutes in *teshuvah*, at a level that even a *tzaddik* can't reach. I envy you!"

This was the turning point in the boy's life. He broke the engagement and gradually came back to a full Torah life. Still, his family often wondered, why had he agreed to go to the *shiur* in the first place?

He later explained: In fourth grade, his class went to Rav Aharon Leib to be tested. He asked each boy a simple question and gave each a



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sage advice

THE PRINCE OR THE PAUPER?

Living Up to Our Title

You're invited to join the royal family for a catered kosher dinner at Buckingham Palace. You're introduced to the Prince of Wales. "Whooo-hoooo!" he shouts in a thick Cockney accent. "Great to meet a real American Jew! Wanna join me for a poker game after supper?"

Is this really the prince? He surely doesn't speak like one.

As the Rosenbergs walked to their cousins' house for Shabbos lunch, Eli Rosenberg began to regret accepting the invitation. At the table, the conversation was just what Eli had feared: a critique of the rabbi's speech, snide remarks about the neighbors the cousins had seen in shul, the children's nasty impressions of their classmates, and so forth.

As the Rosenbergs walked home from their cousins' house, five-year-old Danny spoke up. "Is cousin Yaakov's food kosher?" he asked.

"Of course, Danny! Why would you ask that?" his father answered.

"Cause it doesn't feel like a Jewish place," he answered simply.

Our Jewish *neshamah*, the Divine spark that sets us apart, gives us royal status. **Someone who "dishes the dirt" is like a pauper in prince's clothing.** He might look the part, but from the moment he opens his mouth, he casts doubt on his identity.

candy for his correct answer. This boy, however, got the answer wrong. The Rav tried two other questions, and the boy failed both times. As everyone began to leave, Rav Aharon Leib called this boy back and told him, "With Torah, you don't just get credit for your answer. You get credit for your effort. The other boys tried one question and got one candy. You tried three." He dropped three candies into the child's hand.

We never know what our kindness will accomplish.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why did Rav Aharon Leib's gesture motivate this boy to go to his *shiur* so many years later, even though he was no longer religious?



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