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SHABBOS MENU

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS TETZAVEH 5782 • ISSUE 279

REST IN PEACE

Not everyone who passes from this world was an exemplary human being. Is there anything wrong with talking about someone's negative traits and misdeeds once he's gone? Since it can't damage him anymore, is it still *loshon hora*?

T H E

DILEMMA

No one was surprised when Chaim passed away at the age of 68 of a massive heart attack. The man was a simmering volcano his entire life, and many people had been caught in his epic eruptions.

At the company he founded, most of the executives greeted Chaim's passing with a quiet sense of relief. Chaim's son, as calm as his father was volatile, was ready to step into his father's shoes. Maybe life at the office would become something like normal.

"Let's face it," said Ben, the marketing director, to Yosef, his assistant. "We are not going to miss Chaim's melt-downs. But he wasn't just an angry guy. I heard he was a crook, too. Someone told me that he was squirrelling away company money in a separate account."

Are Ben's words *loshon hora*?



T H E

HALACHAH

Ben is disparaging Chaim and spreading unsubstantiated rumors about him. There is a long-standing ban, a *cheirim*, against spreading rumors about the deceased. Ben must ask forgiveness and do *teshuvah* for degrading and slandering Chaim.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:9*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

We want to express our utmost hakaras hatov and admiration for the wonderful work and the beautiful lessons your programs teach Klal Yisrael. We truly believe your organization is one of the pillars that's keeping the world standing.

Daniel and Chaya Rosen

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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"Searching for sins and

seeking
the good are both admirable
traits, provided that the
former is for oneself
and the latter for

one's fellow."
— The Rebbe Reb Levi Yitzchok MiBerdichev,
cited in *Pisgamim Nivcharim*

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

Irving and Helen Maisel were proud traditional Jews. When their son Howie was ready to start nursery school, they made a decision to send him to the local yeshiva in the Five Towns, Long Island. Mr. Maisel brought his son to the yeshiva the next day to speak to the administrator. After a short conversation, the administrator asked the hopeful father if he was able to pay tuition.

"I can't pay the whole thing," Mr. Maisel answered. "But I'm a contractor for the New York City Buildings Department, and I would be willing to do any construction or repair work you need at the school."

The administrator advised Mr. Maisel to come back the following year when his son would be kindergarten age, and government funding would be available to defray the cost.

Irving Maisel was outraged. A Jewish school turning down a Jewish child! How could it be? He yelled and slammed the desk and marched out, still screaming.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Moshe Katz, head of the yeshiva, wondered what all the commotion was about. He got up and followed Mr. Maisel out to the parking lot. There he approached the angry man and asked for a ride to Far Rockaway, where the Maisels lived. On that ride, he heard Mr. Maisel's story.

"You're right," Rabbi Katz said. "Your services would definitely save the yeshiva a lot of money. I'm coming to

sage advice

PERIPHERAL VISION

Some people see only what's right in front of their eyes, and sometimes not even that. A person who operates with this kind of tunnel vision might take care of his own immediate needs quite well. He might laser-focus on his own goals and get there with the minimum distraction.

However, he's likely to miss the thousands of opportunities Hashem places in his life that are meant for his growth as a Jew and a *tzelem Elokim*. Those are the opportunities that arise from other people's needs. Those are the moments when we can emulate Hashem's *chesed* and show care and compassion for a fellow Jew.

The Torah teaches us what "perfect vision" is for a Jew when it relates the encounter of Moshe Rabbeinu with the burning bush (*Shemos* 3:2-5). "Moshe thought, 'I will turn aside now and look at this great sight. Why will the bush not be burned?' Hashem saw that he turned aside to see, and G-d called out to him from amid the bush."

Moshe cared to know. He noticed something unusual and turned to study it, to understand what it meant and why Hashem had placed this sight in his path. But he had to "turn to see" in order to learn the message. Once Hashem saw that he did that, He called out to Moshe, and the story that would end in our redemption commenced.

Our leaders are those who look around and see what needs to be done. And we can be leaders, too – of our families, classrooms, communities, businesses – by doing the same.

TALK ABOUT IT

Think of a time someone helped you out and you wondered, "How did he know I needed that?"

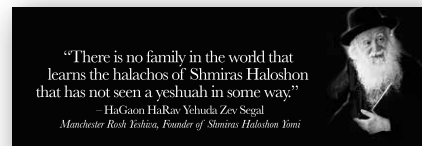
GET UP AND GO SEE

you tomorrow with a contract, and you can enroll your son." Fifty years later, Irving and Helen Maisel were the proud parents, grandparents and great-grandparents of a sprawling *frum* family — all because Rabbi Moshe Katz got out of his seat and went to see how he could help.

As heard from Rabbi Nachman Seltzer

TALK ABOUT IT

How do we know when something is our business or isn't our business to get involved in?



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