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SHABBOS MENU

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS VAYAKHEL 5782 • ISSUE 281

ALL IN THE FAMILY

You're upset about someone's behavior toward you, and look! There's his father and brother! Can you speak to them about the issue?

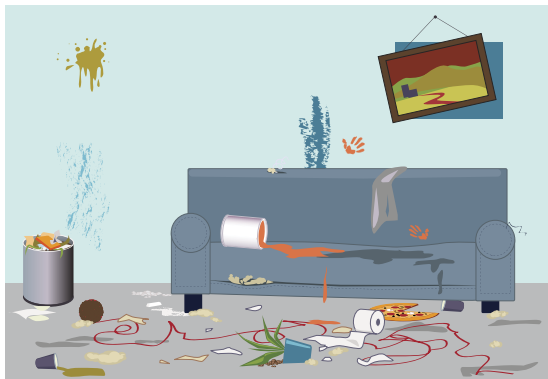
T H E

DILEMMA

Your cousin Rafi came with his wife and family to your house for Shabbos. Neither parent made any effort to restrain their four small children in any way. The dining room, living room, playroom, and the bedrooms they slept in were all left under a heap of toys, pulled-apart tissue boxes, cookie crumbs and spilled drinks. It took you and your wife the entire evening and part of the next morning to restore order. Why, you wonder, couldn't your cousin have at least cleaned up after his brood?

A week later, you see Rafi's father and his brother at a wedding.

You're eager to share your story and get a little sympathy for your encounter with Rafi's messy, irresponsible family. Can you start this conversation?



T H E

HALACHAH

There is no difference between disparaging someone in front of relatives or in front of non-relatives. The story would still be loshon hora, even if told to Rafi's father and brother. If you want to redress the wrong, you should speak directly to Rafi.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon
Hora 8:11*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

Just watched your first "shalom" video. It was outstanding. Already on day 1, it altered an action — much for the better — that I would have otherwise unwisely taken. A magnificent, creative and powerful force of good!

A very grateful Shalom Challenge participant

Join the Shalom Challenge!
Email "I'm in" to shalom@cchfglobal.org or Whatsapp "I'm in" to 845-521-0054.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Any attempt to

fully describe
the great
destructiveness of strife will be
insufficient!"

— Sefer Shmiras HaLoshon,
Shaar HaZechirah ch. 15

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

WHICH SIX WEEKS?

Hashem's justice is perfect. He takes every element of a situation into account with precision. This is unlike a human judge, who may impose a penalty on one person that causes undeserved hardship for many others.

In contrast, Hashem also calculates the suffering a person's misfortune will cause to every last person who depends on him. This is one reason that *chessed* can have a tremendously protective effect on the doer, as this true story illustrates:

Mrs. Hershkowitz felt ill. After undergoing some tests, her doctor confirmed her suspicions.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," he said, "but your condition is very serious. You have about six weeks to live."

"Don't worry," the woman said, "I have insurance."

"Insurance?" the doctor asked. "What does insurance have to do with it?"

"I take care of my mother," the woman replied. "She'll have no one if I'm not here. So as long as she's here, I'll have to be here. She's my insurance."

The doctor shook his head sadly. The poor woman was obviously in denial.

However, he was the one who was in for a surprise. Weeks and months went by, and the woman was still well enough to take care of her mother. Four years later, her mother passed away. And six weeks after that, the woman finally succumbed to her illness.



sage advice



FOUR WAYS TO MISFIRE

When Words Are Your Weapon

When you use words as ammunition, there are four ways to inflict casualties.

Miriam's cousins came to town for a wedding without letting her know.

"What inconsiderate snobs!" she told her husband.

"They didn't even call you, let alone me," she informed her mother. "Their own aunt!"

"They never liked our family," Miriam told her sister. "But they're not so great themselves. Remember when Cousin Moshe suddenly came back from yeshivah? For sure he got kicked out."

By that evening, the cousins had heard about Miriam's grievance. Cousin Leah called to explain: With no time for a proper visit, they thought it would be kinder to come and go unannounced.

"Well, thanks a lot," Miriam responded. "But I don't need your condescending explanations."

In one day, Miriam had covered the gamut of forbidden speech. She spoke classic *loshon hora* to her husband (derogatory words about a third party); *rechilus* to her mother (a story that might arouse anger at the cousins); *hotzaas shem ra* to her sister (her words were not true); and *onaas devarim* to Leah (words that inflict pain). Whether the verbal bullets ricochet off other people or shoot straight at their target, they always hit their mark.

TALK ABOUT IT

What character trait set Miriam up for this long line of *aveiros*? What trait would have prevented it from getting started?

This woman knew that as long as she was needed in the world, Hashem would continue to return her soul to her each morning. The more people to whom we make ourselves indispensable, the longer and stronger is our lease on life.

Heard from Rabbi Meilich Biderman

TALK ABOUT IT

How can this idea help us deal with someone who seems to need us very often?

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פיינעל שניאור ז"ל
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש
" אלול תשע"ז
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

לע"נ
שמואל חיים בן אברהם יוסף ז"ל
דבורה בת ישראל ע"ה
Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

לעילוי נשמת
מרת אסתר בת
ר' אהרן מיכלי ע"ה



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