



FOOD  
FOR  
THOUGHT  
TO SPARK  
CONVERSATION

# SHABBOS MENU



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## 'YOUR NATION' IS A GOOD NATION

*Every so often, an unflattering story about someone rings true. Is there any exception to the rule against believing loshon hora?*

T H E

### DILEMMA

**T**he name of a childhood friend – a girl who was getting into serious trouble by the time she was in eighth grade – comes up in conversation. You haven't heard anything about this girl for more than a decade.

"Well, things didn't get any better with her," says your friend, who knows the girl's sister. "After she ran away from home, she supported herself by shoplifting. I heard she even spent a couple of years in jail. She absolutely broke her parents' hearts."

You have no reason to disbelieve this story. But may you believe it?

T H E

### HALACHAH

**A**s long as someone is not considered an *apikores* or an informer, he is part of "*amisecha*," your nation, and Hashem's nation is worthy of being judged favorably. If this were a situation in which the girl might pose a danger to those hearing the information, they may take precautions and verify, but they may not simply believe what they hear about a fellow Jew.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,  
Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:1*



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.

*In Adar we increase our simchah, and nothing increases simchah more than living in peace with those we love. One great way to increase the peace is to use the mitzvah of mishloach manos to spread it to every corner of our lives: to reconnect with those we have grown apart from, to rekindle a friendship, to open a window for reconciliation where feelings have soured, to show sincere remorse and offer apologies where needed. Let Purim be the catalyst for shalom, so that we can enjoy true simchah!*

*A Freilichen Purim!*

### FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

[Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org](mailto:Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org)

"We should learn from Moshe

*Rabbeinu,*

who went to  
Dasan and Aviram in an

*attempt*

to make peace."

– Shaar HaZechirah, ch. 17

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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

**Y**ears ago, in Eretz Yisrael, a *rebbe* insulted a student in front of the class. The boy plunged into a depression, closing himself off in his room or lingering uselessly around the house, accomplishing nothing.

Years later, the *rebbe* met a former student from that class and began asking after each of the boys. The student reported good news about nearly all of them. However, when the *rebbe* asked about the boy he had insulted, the student told him, "He's been depressed for years. The truth is, *Rebbi*, everyone says that it all started the day you insulted him in class."

The *rebbe* was shocked. He went straight to the home of the boy and asked *mechilah*. However, the boy said he would forgive the *rebbe* only if he gathered every student from the class, sat them in the classroom, brought him up to the front, acknowledged the wrong he had done and asked forgiveness.

Finding all the students was painstaking work, but he did it. Then he calculated how much it would cost to fly them all to Eretz Yisrael. The total was \$17,000 – a full year's salary for him. He went to Rav Elyashiv, explained the situation, and asked, "Does the Torah require me to do this?"

Rav Elyashiv exclaimed that it was a small price to pay for his *Olam Haba*, for a person who embarrasses another loses his place in the World to Come.

## THE PRICE OF REPAIRS



The *rebbe* did what he had to do, and he was forgiven.

For us, **this story should serve as a bright, flashing sign, warning people of the damage they do themselves with a thoughtless Purim prank, a derisive public comment made as a "joke," or most destructive of all, a text or post that turns someone into the laughingstock of friends and family.**

For when social media carries the insult, there isn't enough money in the world to make it right.

### TALK ABOUT IT

What strategy can you use to help yourself refrain from embarrassing another person?

לע"נ  
יעקב יצחק יונה  
בן בצלאל ז"ל

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

## sage advice

# THE MAGIC OF MAKE-UP



## Helping Others Present Their Best Face

A top make-up artist demands a top price. With her magic box of colors, powders and pencils, she can make the most out of the features Hashem gave a person, revealing her hidden beauty. Each of us has the same ability to reveal others' beauty. The tools are in our magic box of words.

*Rabbi Gutvort waited in the wings while the MC introduced him to the crowd.*

*The introduction made the rabbi a little uncomfortable. "Dynamic speaker" (What about the man who snored through his last speech?) "Amazing insights" (They were the insights of Torah sages!) "People flock to him for advice" (Well, at 76 years of age, anyone would have wisdom to impart.)*

*Rabbi Gutvort took the podium. The attentive audience was eager to hear a "dynamic speech" full of "amazing insights" and "good advice." By enhancing Rabbi Gutvort's image, the MC had opened the audience's hearts to his message.*

When we speak well of others, we reveal their optimal image. We also get other people to see what we see. The make-up doesn't lie; it focuses on the good points and, in doing so, projects a little more beauty into the world.

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