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SHABBOS MENU

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS TAZRIA / HACHODESH 5782 • ISSUE 286

WHO'D HAVE EVER GUESSED?

People change, and sometimes, we're surprised at how high they've climbed. Is there anything wrong with expressing this form of praise?

T H E

DILEMMA

The last time you saw Yossi, he was on his way out the door of the yeshiva where you were both students. He wasn't just leaving; he had been expelled after a long history of infractions. Famous for his wild exploits, he had even spent a night in the local jail.

Five years later, your cousin informs you that his new *chavrusa* knows you from high school. "Yossi Klein's his name. He's an awesome guy – a real sharp mind and a real serious learner."

You're amazed. It's like a miracle! You want to say, "Wow! He's really come a long way! Who would ever have thought he'd be sitting and learning?" Is this comment permitted?



T H E

HALACHAH

Saying that someone has come a long way or has reached unexpected heights implies that they have a negative history and is therefore *avak loshon hora* and not permitted.

*Sefer Chofetz
Chaim,
Hilchos
Loshon
Hora 9:1*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

Feedback on The Shalom Challenge 2 is flooding in:

This series was extremely down to earth; it covered serious problems and made practical suggestions for improvement. An outstanding work!

Leah Mark

Ed: If you haven't take The Shalom Challenge yet—it's not too late!

Sign up at cchfshalom.org

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"He who

shames

a friend

lacks

a heart."

Mishlei 11:12

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

RABBI MENASHE'S ADVICE

THE POWER OF SHMIRAS HALOSHON YOMI

Rabbi Menashe, a *cheder rebbi* in Lakewood, once came upon a letter from Rebbetzin Kanievsky in which she stated that she recommended to those in need of a *yeshuah* that they learn *halachos* of Shmiras Haloshon daily. She recounted several instances in which people's troubles had resolved soon after beginning the learning.

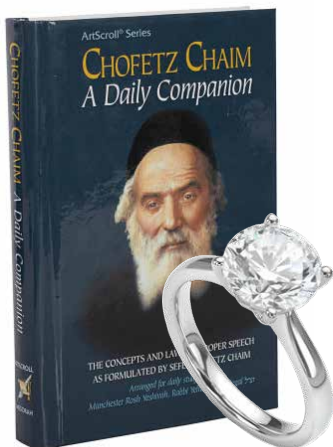
"I went to a friend and suggested this as a way to help his daughter find a *shidduch*," Rabbi Menashe recalled. "He decided to learn it with his daughter, and a few months later she was engaged. He said that he knew the learning was what turned the tide, because he saw clearly that she began to have *siyata d'Shemaya* when they began learning."

He began recommending this idea to more people who were in need of merit, and the more he did so, the more *yeshuos* came about. One day his wife said, "Why doesn't it work for us?" Rabbi Menashe had two sons and a daughter in *shidduchim* at the time, and the process had been going slowly. He was already learning the laws of Shmiras Haloshon daily, so he suggested to his wife that she begin learning also.

"If we haven't had any results within the year, I'll buy you a piece of jewelry," he said. His

wife took up the challenge and six weeks later, the younger of the two sons was engaged. Three weeks after that, the older one got engaged. Then, shortly before the first wedding, their daughter got engaged.

"I was so confident in



sage advice

WHEN FIRE IS NOT ALLOWED

It's Friday night at the Levy house, and Mrs. Levy is tapped out. After a hectic morning at work, a frustrating traffic jam on the way home, no-show cleaning help and a world-class tantrum by her 18-month-old son, she finally lights her candles, says the blessing, takes some deep breaths and tries to capture the peace of Shabbos.

When her teenaged daughter quickly bentches at the end of the meal and announces that she is going to visit a friend, Mrs. Levy feels her irritation resurfacing. "Don't go anywhere until we have this table cleaned off," she tells her daughter sharply. Responding to her mother's tone, the girl argues, "I help every week. Why can't someone else help for a change?"

Mrs. Levy loses her cool. She tells her daughter that she may not go anywhere, not tonight, not next Friday night, not ever again! She wonders how she raised such a selfish, lazy child. The daughter screams, "I wish I lived somewhere else!" and begins noisily stacking the dishes and throwing cutlery angrily into the sink.

The Torah teaches that on Shabbos we are forbidden to light fires. We don't turn on the stove, the car ignition or even an electric light. But beyond this, the Zohar tells us there is another fire we must not ignite – the fire of anger and *machlokes*. When we do this, we drive away the *kedushah* that naturally flows to us on Shabbos. Worse yet, we deprive ourselves of the source of *kedushah* that we take with us into the week.

The fire of anger defeats the purpose of Shabbos, and therefore we must be careful not to kindle it. For a "Shabbat shalom," we need to cultivate a heart of shalom.

Adapted from a *dvar Torah* heard from Rabbi Shaya Heimlich

the power of learning Shmiras Haloshon that I went to my daughter's friend and suggested she try it," he said. "And she got engaged."

Rabbi Menashe explains that learning Shmiras Haloshon is not a *segulah* but, as so many testify, the learning changes the person, and that changes the way Hashem deals with him. And it does not apply only to *shidduchim*. Having children, *nachas* from children, health and *parnassah* are all, as *Mishlei* tells us, in the power of the tongue.

As heard from Rabbi Menashe

TALK ABOUT IT

What need of your own or of someone else would motivate you to undertake the daily learning of the *halachos* of Shmiras Haloshon?

Get simple techniques to keep the peace with others. (Even when you're right.)

Join THE SHALOM CHALLENGE 2.0

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