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SHABBOS MENU

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS KEDOSHIM 5782 • ISSUE 289

AREN'T WE GETTING A BIT CARRIED AWAY?

You want to say something nice about someone. You want it to be very, very nice – so nice that the person you are talking to will know without a doubt just how impressive he really is. Is there any down-side to your glowing words?

T H E

DILEMMA

Leah and Avraham move into a new neighborhood and are promptly invited for Shabbos lunch by their new next-door neighbors, the Cohens. On Monday, Leah makes the acquaintance of another neighbor as the two wait with their sons at the yeshivah bus stop.

"How are you settling in?" the neighbor asks.

"Oh, we love it here," Leah enthuses. "It's so friendly! The Cohens already invited us for Shabbos lunch. She's amazing. How can anyone be so accomplished in her career and such an excellent cook and mother all at once? Her house is absolutely perfect. Gorgeous décor, which she told me she did herself, and neat and clean as can be. You'd never know eight kids live there. She's really such an inspiration!"

The neighbor begins squirming. Mrs. Cohen might be a good lady, but she doesn't exactly wear a halo. She's got a bit of a temper and can be difficult to deal with. "You should just know," the neighbor tells Leah, "that she's got her flaws like everyone else. She's very demanding of her kids and not always so easy to get along with."

Is Leah responsible for the conversation's negative turn?

T H E

HALACHAH

Heaping excessive praise on someone, even if the listeners are not the subject's enemies, often leads to *loshon hora*, either by the speaker, who may say something negative to tone down his testimonial, or by the listener, who might feel envious or just want to set the record straight. Therefore, such praise is *avak loshon hora* and not permitted.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon
Hora 9:2*

*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.*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*I really admire your hishtadlus as you work to make the world a better place, improve people and their relationships one at a time, and bring Mashiach through bitachon and ahavas Yisrael – the only way it'll ever happen.
Hatzlachah u'verachah!*

Shmuel Yosef Elbinger

Ed: Now kids can benefit, too! See CCHF's Shalom Championship and Shabbos Seudah Schmooze in Circle Magazine every week of Sefirah.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Who is

rich?

He who is

happy
with his lot."

– Avos 4:1



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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

Rabbi David Ashear reminds us that when we face difficult situations, Hashem often places a challenge before us that will give us the *zechus* we need.

He relates the following story told by Rabbi Elimelech Biderman that illustrates the point:

Family A and Family B were making *sheva berachos* on the same night in a hall in Eretz Yisrael. The hall had two rooms – one larger and more upscale, and the other smaller and more modest. By accident, the hall booked both families for the large room. When the families arrived, a hot dispute broke out. The owner was summoned to the hall to repair the situation.

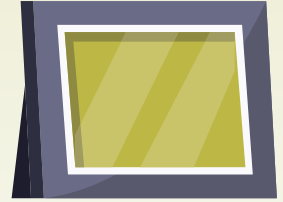
He first approached Family B, which had been given the smaller hall. He offered them a steep discount as well as free hotel rooms for their guests if they would accept the smaller room. He also appealed to their idealism, trying to open their eyes to the value of giving in and keeping the peace as a zechus for the young couple. However, they were unmoved.

He next went to Family A, urging them to earn the zechus of being mevater, and sweetening the deal with a deep discount. The father said he was willing to change rooms, but the owner would have to convince his wife. The owner tackled the issue head-on: "Don't you want to have this beautiful zechus?"

The woman stopped and thought for a moment. Her father had just been diagnosed with cancer and would be heading to Belgium for surgery. Perhaps this would help. She agreed to switch rooms. Five days later, the woman's father went for his first chemotherapy treatment, which was to be preceded by a scan. The doctor was shocked to find that the large tumor he had planned to

sage advice

WHAT'S OUTSIDE THE FRAME?



A man walks by his neighbor's house and notices several cardboard cartons waiting at the door. He feels a prickle of jealousy. "They shopped up a storm!" he thinks. Then he snaps a picture of the tableau and sends it to another friend. "Gift day at the Goldsteins!" he captions the shot. His friend feels a little prickle of jealousy too.

However, the man doesn't see what happens five minutes later when the owner of the house brings his boxes inside and begins opening them up. He's not filled with glee; he's sighing a heavy sigh. These diabetic supplies are his lifeline, and he will need them for as long as he lives.

Meanwhile, inside another home, a woman takes a picture of her perfectly set Shabbos table and sends it off to her sister, who replies, "You're a superwoman!" Yes, it's only 10 a.m. on Friday morning and the table is set for a king. What the sister doesn't see is the living room, two feet away, where the woman's children sit in a heap of Legos, toys and cookie crumbs while their baby sister, who has purloined the bowl of challah dough, is "kneading" it on the carpet.

Whether we view people's lives through the pictures they text or post, or through our own eyes as we observe the face they show to the world, we never see more than a sliver of reality. Beyond the frame of the picture, before or after the moment we observe, anything could be happening.

The question, then, is: Why be jealous? Instead, we can all be wealthy, simply by following the advice of *Pirkei Avos* which teaches, "Who is rich? He who is happy with his lot."

TALK ABOUT IT

Why are we so interested in other people's lives and accomplishments?

KIDS CAN BEAT JEALOUSY TOO!
See the CCHF Shalom Championship Seudah Schmooze in Circle Magazine

THE BIGGER CELEBRATION

treat was now a small growth that required only a weaker medication and no surgery at all. She could not have known it at the time, but what the woman gave up turned out to be a mere nothing compared to what she received in return.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can we avoid being swept up in negativity and, instead, focus on passing the test?



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דבורה בת ישראל ע"ה
Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

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