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**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION**



SHABBOS MENU

An Artsroll book in brand-new condition was found at the CCHF convention in January.

If it is yours, please email the name of the book and your contact info to Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org or call the office at 845.352.3505 ext. 5.

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS BEHAR 5782 • ISSUE 291

HE'S UNASSAILABLE

Some people are so righteous and beloved that there is literally nothing bad to say about them. When that is the case, does praise present any pitfalls?

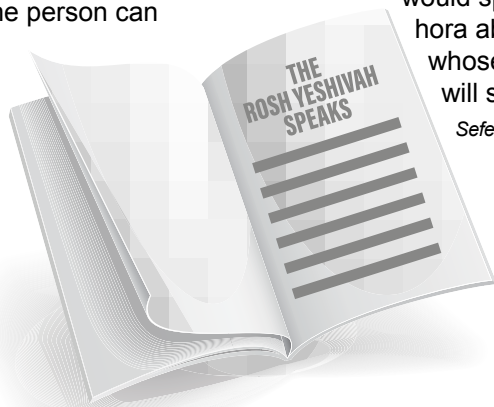
T H E

DILEMMA

A major Jewish magazine features an interview with a renowned Rosh Yeshivah in Eretz Yisrael. Jews from all over the world flock to his home to receive advice and *berachos*. His Torah knowledge is unrivaled, as is his kindness and concern for his fellow Jew.

You read the article and your respect for this *Gadol*, which was already high, rises even further. "Did you read the article about the Rosh Yeshivah?" you ask your friend. "I can't believe how one person can accomplish so much and be there for Klal Yisrael in so many ways. It's almost as if he's more than human."

This is lavish praise, but is it *avak loshon hora*?



T H E

HALACHAH

When discussing someone who is above reproach we are permitted to voice full praise, even in front of those who dislike him, because the subject's lofty status is so well established that it is the person who would speak *loshon hora* about him whose reputation will suffer.

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

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

Thank you for the three weeks of tools to bring us closer to the goal of Shalom al Yisrael for everyone.
Yasher koach.

Sandy

You can continue to grow in Shalom. Learn Live the Blessing.
Visit cchf.global/shop. — (Ed.)

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"From the fruit of a man's

mouth

he will be sated with good,
and the work
of a man's

hand

returns to him."

— Mishlei 12:14

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

THE PHRASE THAT SAVES THE DAY

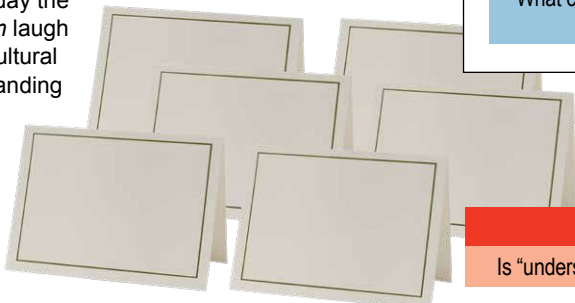
The Levine* family, Americans, and the Kaplan* family, natives of Eretz Yisrael, made a *shidduch* between their children. The wedding was to take place in Eretz Yisrael, and the Levines needed someone on site to take care of their side of the details. Rabbi Yosef Sorotzkin, a friend of the Levines, agreed to step in.

When Rabbi Sorotzkin recalls the story, he credits its happy ending to two words his mother, Rebbetzin Chassia Sorotzkin, often murmured to herself and her children in moments of potential strife: "*farshtei yenem*" — understand the other. The Rebbetzin, a renowned educator, taught her children to imagine arguing with someone across a table and switching places with that person for a few moments before resuming the argument.

This advice became paramount as Rabbi Sorotzkin navigated the cultural differences between an American-style and an Israeli-style wedding. The final detail was place cards, which the Americans considered essential and Israelis had never even heard of. The Israeli *mechutan* finally suggested that each side do it their own way. Rabbi Sorotzkin warned that this might lead to confusion, but seeing that the *mechutan* was determined, he let it go.

The night of the wedding, the Israeli guests noticed that there were place cards, and they did not have places. They became insulted and began leaving in droves. Desperate, R' Kaplan swept all the cards off the table so that his guests would not suffer any further slight. R' Levine recoiled as hours of hard work figuring out table arrangements vanished. Seeing that the conflict was about to boil over, Rabbi Sorotzkin heard his mother's quiet voice. *Farshtei yenem*... He spoke to the American father.

"You're not wrong to be upset," he said. "But he's not wrong either. He's been looking forward to marrying off his child and now, here he is at the *simchah* — watching his guests walk out the door!" R' Levine calmed down. The wedding was beautiful, and to this day the *mechutanim* laugh about the cultural misunderstanding that seemed to loom so large that night.



As a *zechus* for a *refuah sheleimah* for
ELKA ROCHEL BAS SARAH MALKAH

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

לע"נ אברהם בן פנינה ז"ל
לע"נ אברהם בן אסתר ז"ל

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

sage advice

HEARING OR LISTENING?

Do you hear the rain banging on your window? The hum of the dishwasher? The bass guitar playing with the band? Unless you have a particular interest in any of these sounds, you hear, but you're not listening. Perhaps if you are planning to take a walk outdoors, you'll listen to the raindrops. If the bass player is your son, you'll notice what he contributes to the music. Otherwise, it's just noise.

Likewise, when another person's thoughts don't seem relevant to us, we hear their voice without listening to its message. Here are some tell-tale signs that you are hearing, but not listening, to the other person:

- **You offer criticism instead of empathy:** "Sorry to say, I knew you'd lose the job. This is the third job you've lost. You have to start wondering if it's them or it's you."
- **You're distracted:** "So, wow, you're out of a job... Let me answer this text quickly and I'll be right with you... OK, so you were saying... Oh, just a second, it's my son calling... OK, now, tell me what happened... Oh, wait one more minute..."
- **You focus on details instead of the point:** "You're saying your boss didn't like you, but didn't you tell me a couple of weeks ago that he complimented your work?"
- **You compete:** "You think that's bad? I lost my job in the middle of the recession. At least now there are openings."
- **You're impatient:** "Sorry to hear you lost your job. I don't have time for the whole story, but *iy"H* everything will work out."
- **You steal his thunder:** "I know, I know, your coworker told me you lost your job.*"

One of the greatest kindnesses we can do for another person is to truly listen when he speaks to us. When we see each person as someone who is relevant to us — not just raindrops on the windowpane — listening comes naturally.

*This is *rechilus* in addition to insensitivity.

TALK ABOUT IT

What can you personally do to become a better listener?

Adapted from an article in *Mishpacha* magazine

*Names have been changed.

TALK ABOUT IT

Is "understanding the other" the same as giving in?

KIDS CAN LEARN TO LISTEN TOO!
See the CCHF Shalom Championship Seudah Schmooze in Circle Magazine

SHABBOS TABLE
SHALOM CHAMPIONSHIP

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ZOO-dah!

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OUR MISSION

at the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation is to inspire Jews around the world to grasp the life-enhancing gift of *shmiras haloshon*, *ahavas Yisrael*, and *shalom*, and to provide easy access to a wide array of options designed to spark personal growth.

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