

SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS NITZAVIM 5782 • ISSUE 309

HE SHOULD HAVE BUT HE DIDN'T

When someone refuses to do for you the kind of favor the Torah requires one Jew to do for another, he's surely doing wrong. May you let others know that he's the type of person who turns his back on a fellow Jew?

T H E

DILEMMA

Your neighbor has a large guest suite in her house. When you make a *kiddush* for your son's *aufruf*, you ask her to host your sister and her small family. With no explanation or excuse she says "no." You're not only hurt by the flat refusal, but annoyed that you now have to make a dozen phone calls to find a place for the guests.

That Shabbos, you notice that your neighbor has no guests in her suite—no extra cars in front of the house, no people entering or leaving the private entrance. It's sitting empty. "This is wrong!" your mind screams. "She's lucky enough to have a nice guest suite and she doesn't even want to offer hospitality. She really needs to rethink her ideas about *chesed!*"

You're certain that if you tell other neighbors about this selfish act they will set the woman straight. After all, everyone has to do their part for the community. May you publicly condemn your neighbor's refusal to host your guests?

T H E

HALACHAH

Neither the person who was refused nor someone else who wishes to get involved in rectifying the situation is permitted to spread word about a fellow Jew's refusal to do a favor. Regardless of the motivation, such a report is simple *loshon hora*.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 10:12



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.

We know shmiras haloshon opens the channels of brachah and earns us Hashem's protection. So what can we do differently before Yemei HaDin to bring what we know from our head to our hearts?

The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation's mission is to give every Jew a shmiras haloshon tool that empowers him or her to change our habits of speech so that when we stand before Hashem on Rosh Hashanah, we will be holding the transformative merit of shmiras haloshon. We will be able to honestly say, "I've changed," and on Yom Kippur our Al Cheits for the aveiros involving speech will have new power, for "I'm sorry" counts only when we sincerely try to do better. Visit cchf.global to join the program that works for you or to purchase a new daily learning book and bring the blessing of shmiras haloshon into your life.

Kesivah VaChasimah Tovah.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"At the time of judgment,
they (i.e., the

Heavenly
Court) will
show him
what he has
ruined
with his speech."

— Shmiras HaLoshon / Part 2 ch. 22

DON'T SET OFF THE ALARM



The occupants of a quiet industrial park were in their respective offices, tending to their respective businesses, when suddenly the shriek of a fire alarm cut through the air. Everyone ran out of the buildings and waited for the fire department. One man noticed water gushing out of one of the neighboring office spaces.

The business owner had done some illegal construction on his premises, and the contractor had installed the sprinkler too close to large bay doors that were used for deliveries. The doors had opened and clipped the sprinkler, which led to the alarm.

And that led to a whole new load of trouble. The fire inspector happened to have been at a meeting with the building inspector, and they arrived together at the industrial park to check out the alarm. The fire inspector noticed the illegal construction and brought it to his colleague's attention. A week later a Department of Buildings inspector showed up to assess the situation; the business owner ended up with a slew of violations and costly fines.

This situation, which really happened, is a this-world metaphor for the self-destructive process we set in motion when we speak loshon hora. Everyone has a few "code violations" on his record in some aspect of his mitzvah observance, *middos*, or *bein adam lachaveiro*. When we speak loshon hora, we set off the alarm and bring the forces of heavenly justice to the scene.

The prosecutor's attention is drawn at first by our alarm; he rushes to the scene and deals with the "fire," the sin we've pointed out in another person. But once he's in the door, all our violations, large and small, which were waiting behind closed doors until we would have the wisdom and motivation to correct them, are suddenly on the table.

We can't hide our *aveiros* from Hashem. However, He gives us time—a lifetime—to realize, "This isn't good. This isn't wise. I have to fix it." He's willing to wait, as long as we don't sound the alarm on a fellow Jew.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do we expect patience from others and from Hashem as we try to improve our own flaws, but sometimes fail to realize that other people deserve our patience?

לע"נ

שמואל חיים בן אברהם יוסף ז"ל
דבורה בת ישראל ע"ה

Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

לזכות

מנחם מענדל בן אלטע עקא נ"י
לזכות חיה בת קילא שתחי

As a *zechus* for a *yeshuah* for
Aliza Yuta bas Mazal Tov

sage advice

ROSH HASHANAH'S BUSINESS PLAN

We know that on Rosh Hashanah, Hashem decrees the events and experiences of our life for the year ahead. Life or death, health or illness, wealth or poverty—these are the big issues we think about as we *daven* on those two awe-filled days. But the Chofetz Chaim teaches that we're still not getting the message that absolutely everything in our life depends on the judgment of Rosh Hashanah.

He relates that the Chazon Ish was once sitting with someone when a fly came buzzing around the room. "That's a Rosh Hashanah fly," the Chazon Ish commented. Through this comment, the Chazon Ish was informing his friend that even something as insignificant as a bothersome fly buzzing around the table is part of Rosh Hashanah's decree.

We can relate this to many other seeming minutiae of our lives. We're about to rush out the door to an appointment, but we can't find our keys. We're all set to cook for Shabbos, but we forgot to buy an essential ingredient. We plan a vacation, but a family member gets sick. Or events could work out unexpectedly in our favor: the policeman decides not to write the ticket, the scary symptoms turn out to be nothing, the losing business proposition suddenly turns lucrative.

When we look at life this way, it almost seems like a lottery—you never know! However, the Chofetz Chaim wants us to realize that all these details of life, down to the "Rosh Hashanah fly," are not a lottery at all. They are the inevitable result of our merits and *aveiros*, and most importantly, we have the power to influence these results.

No one walks into shul on Rosh Hashanah free of sin. Therefore, says the Chofetz Chaim, we need to keep one idea in mind. "Hashem says, 'I can save you from any tribulation if you hide yourself from loshon hora.'"

Everything depends on Rosh Hashanah. If we invest our words with kindness and compassion, Hashem will invest our year with the same.

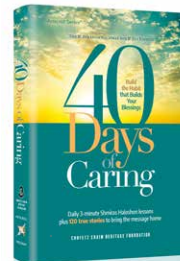
Adapted from a CCHF Live Life Better video by Mr. Michael Rothschild

TALK ABOUT IT

How does it help our *shmiras haloshon* to keep in mind that even the small matters in life are decreed on Rosh Hashanah?

✓
"This year I will say the kinder, positive thing."

INTRODUCING
A way to finally get your Rosh Hashanah kabbalah done.



The book that changes your Shmiras Haloshon

3-Minute Daily Shmiras Haloshon Lessons

Order your book today!

cchf.global/shop
or call CCHF
845.352.3505 ext. 5

AVAILABLE AT ALL JEWISH BOOKSTORES

CHOFETZ CHAIM
HERITAGE FOUNDATION



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.

50,000 TB Event
attendees

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל

נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש
י אלול תשע"ז
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.