



FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS CHOL HAMOED 5783 • ISSUE 312

MAYBE YOU CAN STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT

While you are not permitted to publicly condemn someone who has caused you harm, may you relate your complaint to people who are in a position to help you?

T H E

DILEMMA

Akiva doesn't know it, but your store's security video clearly captures him stealing a necktie—a nice silk designer tie—from the rack. Akiva is 33, unmarried, and plagued with a long list of emotional issues. You pity him, but can't allow him to view your store as a place to shoplift to his heart's content.

You know a mentor who has been working with this young man since his teens. You call him, relate what Akiva did, and ask him to get the tie back for you. "Maybe you could remind him that things like this can land a guy in jail," you add. Since you are the victim of Akiva's act and have a personal interest in obtaining restitution, does that make your discussion with his mentor *loshon hora*?



T H E

HALACHAH

Although a person is not permitted to publicly condemn a wrongful act when he was the victim, he is permitted to speak to someone who can help him by rebuking the wrongdoer and getting him to make restitution for the damage.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 10:13*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

Thank you for the daily learning books that are transforming our lives. A few of the men were so attached to the teachings that they were allowed to take the books with them upon release. This way they can use them to guide their speech in the future.

*Aron,
Federal Corrections Unit,
Dallas, TX*

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"People

confide

their secrets to
someone who is
known to guard his tongue,
for he can be

trusted

to keep matters
confidential."

*– Shmiras HaLoshon,
Shaar HaTevunah ch. 2*

NO NEED TO MAKE IT WORSE

Rav Eliyahu Adler was a saintly Jew who lived in Manchester, England. Several weeks before his passing he became ill, and his son brought him to the hospital emergency room. There, Rav Eliyahu joined about 100 other people waiting their turn to be seen by a doctor.

As they sat waiting, a commotion broke out. Two policemen brought in a man in handcuffs, who had obviously fought the policemen and lost. As the officers sat down on either side of their prisoner and waited along with the rest of the crowd, all eyes turned to the prisoner, bruised, bleeding and soundly defeated.

Rav Eliyahu's son noticed that rather than taking a peek at the prisoner, his father was looking away. Rav Eliyahu continued to look everywhere but in the prisoner's direction as the minutes ticked by. Finally the son asked his father, "Why are you looking away from the prisoner?"

"How can I look at him?" Rav Eliyahu answered. "It will make him feel uncomfortable."

Where everyone else saw a spectacle, Rav Eliyahu saw a human being. Whatever the man had done to deserve the handcuffs and the cuts and bruises, he was still one of Hashem's creations, and for that reason alone—for *kavod habrios*—he deserved consideration.

We can learn from his example. Even when people cause their own humiliation by doing wrong, careless or cruel things, it's not our job to add to their shame. And when people make an innocent error or lack certain abilities or social skills, we certainly have no right to belittle them. On the contrary, by treating them with dignity, we can connect to the *tzelem Elokim* in them and help them shine it into the world.

Adapted from a CCHF Live Life Better video

TALK ABOUT IT

Imagine that something embarrassing happened to your friend in public, in front of you. What would be the best way to respond?



sage advice

MAKING MORE OF ME

Two talented, experienced men are competing for the position of Chief Financial Officer at a growing corporation. The board of directors summons each man for an in-depth interview. The first candidate, Mr. Smith, has 20 years of experience running the finances of several different types of companies. He graduated from a prestigious college at the top of his class, and his articles on economics are often featured in business magazines.

"I've done just about everything there is to do in financial management," he tells the board. "You can see from my resume the results I've gotten. I have a knack for understanding where to spend and where to invest. I'm sure there will be a lot in this company that I can change and improve."

Mr. Jones has a similar resume. He's also successful, sought-after, and confident. In his interview, he says, "The most important thing I've learned from all my experience is that there's always more to learn. I hope I can bring some of what I've learned to this company, and also keep learning and upgrading and contributing more."

"Smith was confident. I like Smith," said one board member.

"Nah, Smith thought he knew it all," said another. "I like Jones. He's going to grow with the company."

When Hashem selected the Jewish people to run his enterprise on earth, He chose "Jones." He didn't want a nation that would consider itself a self-made superpower. He wanted a nation that would see itself as a work in progress, constantly striving to be more.

That is what is expressed in the name of Yosef in contrast to that of Eisav. Rashi states that Yosef is Eisav's nemesis. Yosef's name is rooted in the word *l'hosif* – to add. Eisav's name, however, relates to *asui* – already made. This concept can offer a new and reassuring understanding of the words of *Tehillim*, which we say in *Hallel* throughout Succos, "*Yosef Hashem aleichem*" – May Hashem add to you. By putting a comma after the word "Yosef," we can read the *pasuk* to mean that when the Jewish people emulate Yosef, Hashem is *aleichem* – with them.

Adapted from a recorded lecture by Rabbi Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro for CCHF

TALK ABOUT IT

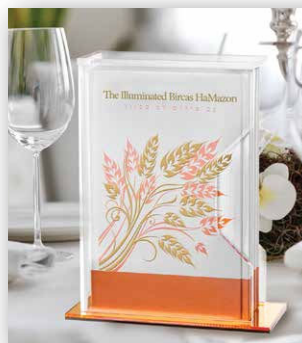
What is a good way to check in with ourselves to make sure we are continuing to grow in our *avodas Hashem*?



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Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

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and Mr. Sidney and Mrs. Sandi
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