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SHABBOS MENU

**FOOD FOR
 THOUGHT
 TO SPARK
 CONVERSATION**

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYEITZEI 5783 • ISSUE 319

FILL ME IN

Someone has a feeling that another person is spreading tales about him, but he's not sure of the details. He's pushing you, his loyal friend, to provide the information that will confirm his suspicions. If he already suspects, are you changing anything by telling him the facts?

T H E

DILEMMA

Dapper Dan's footwear shop for men had hit hard times. If his Pesach season didn't meet his hopeful expectations, Dan wouldn't be able to hang on for long. Everything depended on bringing in a good selection of the high-quality, high-style selection for which his store was known.

As he began making orders and speaking to local publications about advertising, he noticed a frost in the air. The vendors became hard to reach and sketchy about what they could provide. He began to suspect that his former partner, Moshe, the only one who knew of his woes, had disclosed his problems to someone in the business.

One day, on the phone with Chezky, importer of a luxury line of Italian shoes, Dan decided to get to the bottom of the issue. "Chezky, you've been my supplier for 12 years, and *iy"H* you'll be supplying me for many years to come. But I need to know something from you. Is Moshe saying things about Dapper Dan's? Because if he is, I'll make sure he regrets it. Now there's no use denying it, because I'm getting the cold shoulder everywhere I turn. I've given you hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of business over the years, and it's time for you to give me a little something back."

Chezky understood that his business relationship with Dan would be damaged if he didn't speak up. What harm would there be in confirming Dan's suspicion?

T H E

HALACHAH

Even though Dan already suspects that Moshe is speaking negatively about his business, Chezky's confirming report is *rechilus* whether Chezky reports Moshe's negative words of his own volition or in response to Dan's pressure. It would be permitted only if there would be a *to'eles* (such as if Dan would want only to talk to Moshe to clear things up).

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
 Hilchos Rechilus 1:5*



PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

The book Forty Days of Caring helped me a lot. I made sure to read from it every day, and I really enjoy the true stories. Also, each of the videos made a huge impact on me. The videos and the book inspired me during my hour of Mochsom l'Fi. Thanks very much for all the work you put into making these videos and for publishing such a wonderful Shmiras Haloshon book. I hope to bli neder keep up my hour of 12 to 1 every day.

D.H.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"For every moment a person

restrains

his tongue (from loshon hora)
 he merits a

reward

that is beyond the
 comprehension of angels"

– The Vilna Gaon, quoting the Midrash

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 MAGIC OF "I UNDERSTAND"

After praying with the vasikin minyan at the Kosel on a frigid winter morning, Aryeh found himself at the door of his favorite bakery, located in an upscale neighborhood in Yerushalayim. The aroma wafting from the entrance carried the promise of a perfect cheese Danish and a strong cup of hot coffee.

When Aryeh walked up to the counter and ordered his Danish, however, the woman who worked there told him, "Sorry. We're all out, but a fresh batch will be ready shortly if you don't mind waiting".

"I'll wait," he said. "I'll have a cup of coffee meanwhile."

She served him the coffee and he reached into his pocket for his wallet. He had left it in his hotel room!

"Oh, I'm so sorry," he told the woman. "I guess I forgot my wallet. Cancel order for the Danish. Here, you can take back the coffee. I don't know how I could have forgotten my wallet!"

"Well, you must have left your hotel in a hurry to make it to shul on time," she said, eyeing the tallis bag Aryeh held under his arm. "It can happen to anyone. Take your coffee and your Danish and enjoy. You'll come back later and pay. No problem!"

Suddenly, the stress drained from Aryeh's mind and the happy anticipation of his Danish and coffee returned. Instead of feeling the guilt of a petty thief, he felt the contentment of a respectable customer.

Understanding another person's situation is a gift we can give that has the power to transform a difficult interaction into a moment of human



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

Dedicated anonymously
as a *zechus* for a
refuah sheleimah for
all *cholei Yisrael*

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.

SHMIRAS HALOSHON: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

SEE THE LIGHT #1 IN A SERIES

Imagine that 400 years ago, Shimon told Reuven, "Do you know that there are invisible waves in the air that can carry your voice all the way around the world? And it just takes a second!" Or perhaps he might have said, "There's a kind of invisible light that lets you see right through your skin. You can see your bones!"

Chances are good that Reuven would assume Shimon had lost his mind, or perhaps was pulling some kind of prank. Shimon had no way to prove the truth of what he was saying. The technology didn't exist. Now, however, we know that invisible waves and rays can be harnessed to do thousands of vital tasks—even though we still can't see them!

Perhaps Hashem gave us this technology to help us understand the spiritual power that we can't see. The *ohr haganuz*—the hidden light with which Hashem energizes everything in this world—is as real as x-rays and radio waves. Not only does it see through everything and project itself everywhere, but it endows us with every bit of *berachah* and *hatzlachah* we have in life. The more light we merit, the brighter our life will be.

And now we can grasp, with a greater sense of reality, the power of the Vilna Gaon's promise: "For every moment a person restrains his tongue (from *loshon hora*) he merits a reward that is beyond the comprehension of angels." This is the *ohr haganuz*, and although we cannot see it, when we bring *shmiras haloshon* into our lives we can see it at work, shining peace, happiness and *hatzlachah* into our world.

From a Live Life Better series
by Rabbi Jonathan Rietti

warmth. The saleswoman sensed Aryeh's embarrassment and sincerity. She knew he wasn't trying to get away with not paying for his order. "He's human and made a mistake, just like I'm human and make mistakes," she realized. That one thought can turn a potentially hurtful situation into a sweet moment that leaves both parties feeling better about themselves.

Heard from Rabbi Tzvi Sytner

TALK ABOUT IT

Why would the saleswoman feel better about herself?

Sunday December 11, 2022
יום כסלו תשפ"ב
at Bell Works
HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY
RECEPTION: 5:30 PM
PRESENTATIONS & DINNER: 6:30 PM

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