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# SHABBOS MENU

FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT  
TO SPARK  
CONVERSATION

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYISHLACH 5783 • ISSUE 320

## COZY OR CRAMPED?

*Sometimes a person to whom we owe respect wants a little information from us, and sometimes, that information—even if it's neutral—might be received as an insult. Where do we find the balance between our obligations to respect parents and rebbeim, and our obligation to steer clear of even the hint of rechilus?*

### THE DILEMMA

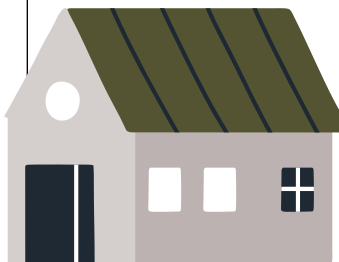
**T**he verdict was in. The Cleveland branch of the Eisenberg family had decided to stay home for Pesach. Traveling with their seven children by plane to Miami, where the Eisenberg parents lived, had become a flying nightmare. With one dress rehearsal forced by the Covid-19 lockdown, the Clevelanders discovered that they actually enjoyed making Pesach and holding their own *sedarim*. Besides, *b"H*, the Eisenberg parents' home could no longer handle the number of children and grandchildren who came to them for Yom Tov.

However, Bubbi Eisenberg didn't mind the crowd, the mess, the non-stop kitchen duty. She loved it! When she heard that her eldest son's family was staying home she began to wonder, "Is it that they're uncomfortable here? Is it that my house isn't good enough anymore?"

One sure source of information would be her other son, Eliyahu, who was particularly close to his older brother. "Tell me the truth, Eli," she said. "Are they staying home because it's too crowded for them here? I need to know."

"No, I don't think that's it, Ma," he said. "I mean, we all know it's getting a little tight, but they don't mind. He even told me that the kids all say 'Bubbi's house is so cozy.'"

Mrs. Eisenberg didn't need a thesaurus to tell her that her eldest son felt cramped and hemmed in by the "cozy" surroundings. And for that, he was willing to deprive her of the company of seven of her grandchildren! Did Eliyahu say the wrong thing?



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 absolutely love these Q&A!  
they are SO practical and make  
the halachos so real!*

Thank you!

E Spira

Bnei Brak

Visit [cchf.global](http://cchf.global) to sign up for  
our free daily emails. — Ed.

## FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

[Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org](mailto:Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org)

"If one

*genuinely*  
loves his fellow,  
he will

*certainly*  
not speak  
loshon hora  
about him."

— Shmiras HaLoshon, Shaar HaTevunah, ch. 5

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# HAPPY TO BE FOOLED

**T**he Satmar Rebbe, Rav Yoel Teitelbaum, was a fierce fighter for the honor of Torah. Therefore, people were sometimes surprised to learn that he had a heart overflowing with love for his fellow Jew.

Because he was so open and willing to help, Jews came to him from far and wide. One day, a con man came to see the Rebbe. He knew that all he had to do was tell a sob story and he would walk out with a wad of cash and a *brachah* besides. So he put on his best show.

“My wife is so sick,” he said, with real tears into his eyes. “She needs medicine we can’t afford. I just can’t bear to watch her withering away like this!” the man declared, breaking down into quiet sobs.

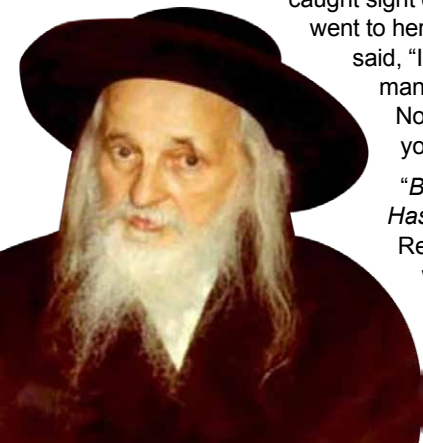
He then lifted his head and looked the Rebbe in the eye. “And I wish that was my only problem,” he resumed. “I have a 10-year-old son. With every spare cent going to my wife’s care, he hasn’t had a new pair of shoes in more than a year. His pants are short on him and the other kids tease him in school. Rebbe, Rebbe, what can we do? Can you please help us out?”

By now, the Rebbe’s eyes were also flowing with tears. He reached into his desk and withdrew a large packet of cash. “Take it,” he told the man. He blessed the man with all the *refuos* and *yeshuos* he needed and sent him on his way.

As the man left, the Rebbetzin caught sight of him. She went to her husband and said, “I know that man. He’s a fraud. Nothing he told you was true.”

“*Baruch Hashem*,” said the Rebbe, “none of it was true!”

Such was the depth of his *ahavas Yisrael*; knowing the



## sage advice THERE’S NO STORY WITHOUT CONFLICT

Imagine a novel in which the characters are all perfect. No one ever says or does anything that disturbs anyone else. All conversations are pleasant. All the people are always kind and cheerful. Everyone feels loved. For 300 pages, nothing happens. At the end of the book, everything is exactly as it was at the beginning. This is not a novel. Neither is it a life.

Hashem built conflict into creation; that’s how the world is meant to be. The reason is that in the 120-year-long story of our lives, it’s the challenges that move the plot. We are supposed to grow emotionally and spiritually, to refine our character and become wiser. We are supposed to become ever closer to Hashem.

But how does it happen? How are we to know which traits need tweaking? That is the role of conflict. It started at *Bereishis*, when the upper waters contended with the lower waters, the moon angled for dominance over the sun, Kayin killed Hevel, Yishmael taunted Yitzchak, and so on. If serenity were the motif for Hashem’s creation, the opening scenes of our world and our nation would surely not have looked like this.

Conflict is the MRI that reveals our priorities and attitudes in life. When we recognize that conflict is not a mistake, not a departure from the way life is meant to be, we can use it as a doctor uses an MRI. The pain, disappointment, and frustration we experience with others can guide us toward what needs fixing in ourselves, and spur us to make each chapter of our life one of new triumphs.

### TALK ABOUT IT

How does expecting conflict in your life make it easier to deal with it?

man was not beset with such woes was more than enough to outweigh the lost money.

From a *Live Life Better* video presentation by Rabbi Yakov Asher Sinclair

### TALK ABOUT IT

What personality traits lead a person to care this much about his fellow Jew?



## OUR MISSION

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Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

As a *zechus*  
for the  
Shapiro Family

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רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל  
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