

# SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PURIM PARSHAS TETZAVEH 5783 • ISSUE 332

## HE TOOK THE FIFTH

*When someone is sitting right there, listening to someone else repeat rechilus that he allegedly spoke, is his silence on the matter an indication that it's true?*

### THE

## DILEMMA

**T**he family is gathered for the Purim *seudah* at Zeidy and Bubby's house. Among those present are the eldest son, Michael, 36, who is a successful businessman, and Shimon, 28, who has been drifting among various *parnassah* options. Michael and his father have been discussing Shimon's troubles recently.

"I'm really starting to get discouraged," Shimon tells his brother. "This real estate job isn't for me. I'm thinking about starting an online business instead."

"Shimon, you have to stick with something!" says Michael. "Daddy agrees with me. He even told me, 'Shimon's not going to get anywhere until he buckles down and follows something through.'"

The father glances uncomfortably at Shimon, trying to gauge his reaction. Michael has transformed his father's words from a soft, concerned comment into a harsh prediction, but his father says nothing. May Shimon believe what Michael has told him?

### THE

## HALACHAH

**A**lthough the father is present and does not deny saying what Michael reports he has said, this does not mean that Shimon may accept Michael's words as fact.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 6:2*

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.

## OUR POWER OF SPEECH SUPER-CHARGED!

*In Heaven, Purim is like no other day.*

"The law of *tzedakah* is that one is supposed to check the worthiness of the recipient. But on Purim the law bids us not to scrutinize the recipient but to give to whoever asks." So it is with Hashem.

He doesn't scrutinize those who reach out to Him on Purim. He showers His blessings upon anyone who asks.

Because of the special power of *tefillah* on this day, many people rise before dawn to recite *Tehillim* and *daven*. Those first hours of the day, or any time during this extraordinary day, are the ideal time to ask for health, marriage, children, prosperity, spiritual growth, success, friendship, and peace for ourselves, our families, and all the rest of those in need.

So be sure to build into your plans for Purim adequate opportunity to best use this special time for *tefillah*.

## FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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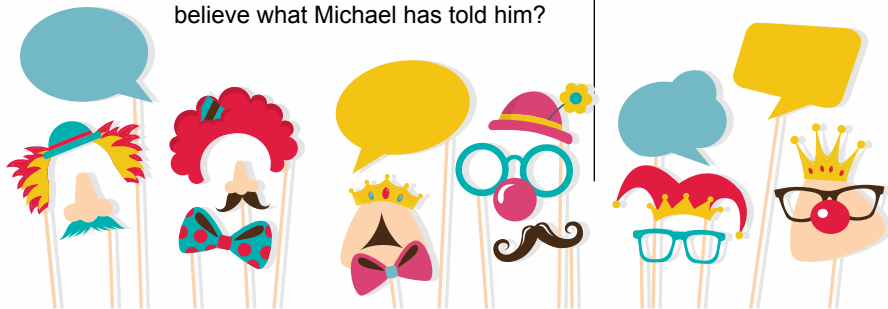
"[Klal Yisrael]

*prevails*  
only by the  
*power*  
of their mouth."

— Bamidbar Rabbah, 20:7

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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y



# PURIM OF PEACE

**W**hen Rav Nochum Cohen spoke at various schools in Eretz Yisrael, he offered students a unique idea for ending any *machlokes* in their families. He suggested that any student who knew about such a situation in his/her family should prepare a beautiful *mishloach manos* on Purim and deliver it to the spurned relative. He added that the students should not worry about acting without their parents' permission, since everyone would certainly be delighted with the outcome.

A high-school girl decided to take his advice. Her mother and her aunt had not spoken to each other for many years, and the cousins were not permitted to have anything to do with each other.

On Purim, the girl secretly prepared a beautiful *mishloach manos* and brought it to her aunt, claiming that it was from her mother. Flabbergasted, the aunt put together an even more lavish *mishloach manos* for her sister and sent one of her children to deliver it. Of course, this sister didn't know that her daughter had already delivered *mishloach manos* to the aunt, so she sent a still more lavish package in return, accompanied by a warm note. The package and note were received with wonder—two *mishloach manos* packages from her

sister! Well then, she would send another, even more impressive package.

The barrier had been broken, and now the unexpressed love of two sisters flowed back and forth without end...

Before the end of the day, two families who had not spoken to each other for years sat down to the Purim *seudah* together!



## TALK ABOUT IT

Besides healing real *machlokes*, what are some other ways you could use *mishloach manos* this Purim to increase friendship and *achdus* in your life?

## sage advice

### SIX WAYS WORDS SAVED THE DAY

Purim invites us to relive the exhilarating reversal from doom to triumph. Hashem did it all; He took every piece of the plan Haman hatched to destroy us and flipped it over to destroy him instead. Our *teshuvah* and fasting opened the way for our redemption. But there was another powerful element working for us, and that was the power of speech. Here are six ways that words helped us win:



Memuchan set the stage for Esther's ascent to the throne by adding fuel to Achashveirosh's ire against Vashti. He **turned it into a "matter of principle,"** claiming that Vashti's behavior would set a bad example for wives all across the Persian empire. That sealed Vashti's fate.



Esther **kept the secret** of her Jewish upbringing, as Mordechai had directed, which enabled her to use the information for Klal Yisrael's benefit at the right time.



Mordechai spoke when doing so would **prevent harm**. He reported the plot to poison the king.



Esther brought Mordechai's loyalty to the king's attention by **attributing to him by name** the information about the plot to kill him.



Esther set up the **right atmosphere** and found the **right words** to appeal to the king and reveal Haman's evil plot.



Charvonah **used the right moment**, while the king was roiling with anger, to point out the gallows Haman had built for Mordechai. That is why the *Megillah* says, "And also Charvonah is remembered for good."

While Memuchan and Charvonah's words show us what *not* to do—fan the flames of anger—they served Hashem's purpose in moving the story toward our salvation. Esther and Mordechai show us what we should do, demonstrating that patience, self-control and foresight in our speech can turn today's troubles into tomorrow's triumphs.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Do you think Esther and Mordechai acted as they did because they thought it would help protect the Jews, or that they always spoke with care?



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