

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS BAH'A'ALOSCHA 5783 • ISSUE 344

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY

You suspect that someone might be out to harm you and you move to protect yourself. Isn't that enough to classify the person as your enemy?

THE DILEMMA

Two saleswomen work together in an upscale dress shop. The store's manager has announced that she will be leaving, and the owner will be finding a replacement. Shira has been working at the store for six years and is a highly successful saleswoman. Knowing that the owner, Chana, likes to promote from within the business, Shira expects to become the next manager.

One day, the outgoing manager takes Shira aside and tells her that her coworker, Devorah, has been subtly campaigning to undermine Shira and promote herself to the owner as the right person to fill the opening. "Chana asked me if it's true, as Devorah told her, that you are out of touch with the customers' taste," the manager reported. "Of course I told her that nothing could be further from the truth, but I would protect myself if I were you."

If what the manager says is true, then Devorah has pitted herself against Shira and is striving to ruin her chances of a well-deserved promotion. Is Shira justified in thinking of Devorah as a cruel person?



THE HALACHAH

Shira can only believe the manager's report to the extent that it enables her to take action to protect herself, perhaps by having a talk with the manager or Devorah or both. However, she may not identify Devorah as an evil person based on this report.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Rechilus 5:4*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

THANK YOU to everyone who was involved in producing LIVE THE BLESSING. I read it cover to cover. It helped me through a real challenge! Then half a year ago I lent it to a friend who was going through a nisayon like mine and she still has not returned it, as she reads it and soaks it up to give her chizuk. That book is a masterpiece!!

Y.H.



Visit cchf.global/shop to get your copy. Also available at all Jewish bookstores

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Someone who
refrains
from speaking lashon hara
receives
extraordinary blessing."

— Shmiras Haloshon vol. II, ch. 23

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

Yehudis thanked Hashem that the *shidduch* crisis hadn't hit her family. Three daughters were married off in turn, all within a short time. Next came her son Boruch.

Kind-hearted, upbeat, and responsible, Boruch should have been eagerly sought after. However, Boruch was a doer. By mid-high school, he was in yeshivah part-time while learning auto repair.

When he began *shidduchim*, Yehudis wasn't sure where to turn. By this time, he was an accomplished mechanic with a good job. He was beloved by friends and family, committed to *davening* with a minyan and keeping his learning *seder*, but girls in *shidduchim* were seeking a different type of *bachur*.

The suggestions that were given were off-base. The dates that materialized went nowhere. But Boruch seemed happy with his life. When his younger brother and subsequent siblings got married before him, he danced at their weddings with wholehearted *simchah*. He loved his nieces and nephews, who loved him in return.

Yehudis was beginning to despair. Why should a wonderful young man, a good Jew, and a good provider not be able to find a wife? Boruch was already 30, living in an apartment in his family's house. However, he didn't share his mother's gloom. "The Master *Shadchan* has it all planned," he insisted.

Then one day, when a new *shadchan* began making inquiries on Boruch's behalf, a shocking fact emerged. A trusted reference on Boruch's resume stated bluntly, "He dropped out of yeshivah at 17. He's gone out with dozens of girls and nothing worked out. Don't waste your time."

The *shadchan* contacted Yehudis to warn her that the reference was giving damaging information.

Yehudis and her husband were furious.

Feeling that Boruch should understand what had happened, Yehudis gently

broke the news to him. But unlike his parents, Boruch took it calmly. "No one is controlling when I get married," he said. "Of course we'll take him off as a reference, But maybe keeping quiet is the *zechus* I need to find

SEEING STRAIGHT

my *shidduch*." And those are the words that replayed in Yehudis's mind five months later, when she walked her son to the *chuppah*.

Adapted from an article by C.B. Weinfeld in the Yated

sage advice

Don't Give Up:

PART 4 OF A 4-PART SERIES

POWERING PAST RESISTANCE

Mordechai and Esther saved the Jewish people from annihilation. Nevertheless, the last *pasuk* of the *Megillah*, which lists Mordechai's achievements, ends by saying he was liked "by **most** of the people." How could some people find fault with the man who had saved their lives?

Likewise, after all Moshe did for the *Bnei Yisrael*, time after time the people complained about him. And centuries later, Rav Moshe Chaim Luzzato wrote deep, holy *sefarim* that were not only poorly received, but caused him to be put into *cherem*. All of this makes us wonder, how did these people keep going?

Rabbi Tzvi Sytner addresses that question with the "Four Cs" of persistence: Clarity, Conviction, Courage, and Conquest:

The first step when people are telling us we're all wrong is to make sure we are actually on the right track. A *rav*, *rebbe*, *tzin*, or mentor is essential, because no one is a good judge of himself. Many disasters have occurred because a person forged ahead, refusing to listen to criticism or suggestions. That is not persistence but foolishness.

Once we **clarify** that what we are doing is worthwhile and proper, we can rally the **conviction** we need to march through the incoming fire. With **courage** we can move forward fearlessly, until we **conquer** the obstacles and reach our goal at last.

TALK ABOUT IT

What's the difference between stubbornness and persistence?



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TALK ABOUT IT

What would be an appropriate response to this situation? How can the damage be stopped without getting into anger and blame?

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Dedicated by Uri & Riki Sklar

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