



# SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS MIKEITZ 5784 • ISSUE 369

## “WHO SAYS I’M TOO OLD?”

*If we are perfectly willing to admit to our limitations, does it matter if others comment on them as well?*

T H E

### DILEMMA

**A**lex was an avid hiker all his life and he conveyed his enthusiasm to his children, who grew up hiking and camping. One summer, two of his sons, Michael and Gavriel, decided to go on a camping trip together. Their wives agreed to the plan and the two brothers got busy making arrangements.

“Do you think we should ask Daddy if he wants to come with us?” Gavriel asked Michael.

“I don’t think so,” Michael replied. “You know, he has his sore knee, and he doesn’t do so well in the heat anymore. He’s getting old!”

When the trip was over and the brothers were showing Alex their pictures, he commented, “I wish I had been there with you. But I’m not in shape for such a hike anymore.”

“Yeah, that’s what Michael said when we talked about it,” Gavriel replied. Was Gavriel permitted to repeat Michael’s comment?



T H E

### HALACHAH

**E**ven though Alex admits that he’s too old to appreciate a rugged hike, hearing it from others is slightly offensive. Therefore, the comment is *avak rechilus*.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 8:4*

### PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*Hi! Just want to say that I’ve been learning these halachos you send for a while now and it has helped me catch myself in many situations.*

**ALL YOUR ZECHUS!!!**

### FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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

- Sefer Shmiras Haloshon, Shaar HaTevunah ch. 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.

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS  
MALKA BREINDEL A" H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH" T

People make mistakes. Sometimes no one notices. They quickly fix the error and move on, happy that there were no witnesses to their carelessness or foolishness.

But what if someone does notice? What if someone sees his friend say or do something wrong? In some cases, the right response might be to gently correct the person. But in many cases, the right response is to pretend he doesn't see, because the only likely result of addressing the issue is that the friend will be ashamed.

**A** story about Rabbi Avraham Genichovsky, a *gadol* in Torah and in *ahavas Yisrael*, teaches us that no rebuke should leave our mouths before we weigh it against the priceless value of a person's dignity:

One Shabbos afternoon, Rabbi Genichovsky's chavrusa came to his home to learn with him. Absentmindedly, the chavrusah rang the doorbell. Embarrassed by his mistake, he had no choice but wait for the door to open.

It was taking an unusually long time for that to happen. When at last the rabbi opened the door, he was standing there in his pajamas rubbing sleep from his eyes.

"I'm so sorry," the rabbi told his guest. "I was taking a nap. I didn't even realize you were here!" This meant he hadn't heard the doorbell.

In reality, the rabbi never napped on Shabbos, nor would he

## DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

ever come to the door in his pajamas. But he was completely willing to lower his image a few notches just to relieve his chavrusa of the shame he must have felt when he realized he had rung

the doorbell. Nothing needed to be said about it, and nothing was said.

### TALK ABOUT IT

How do we decide if we should speak to someone about a mistake or let it fly by?

As a *zechus* for a *shidduch* for those who need it

לע"נ בונא בת חיים חונא ע"ה  
Dedicated by  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Furman

*L'ilui nishmas*  
Sima Bas Baruch on  
her *yahrtzeit* ו טבת  
Dedicated by her daughter

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן  
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל  
גלב"ע ערב שבת קודש  
י אלול תשע"ז  
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

## sage advice



PART OF A SERIES  
ON BEING NOSEI B'OL

## "YOUR HAPPINESS IS MY HAPPINESS"

Rav Boaz Shalom was walking with the great Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach. Mustering up his courage, Rav Shalom expressed his great admiration for Rav Shlomo Zalman.

"Every time I ask the Rav for advice or for a *brachah*, I see the *siyata d'Shemaya* in the advice, and the *brachos* are always fulfilled," he said.

Rav Shlomo Zalman waved away the compliment. "People say that having your *brachos* fulfilled is the result of a person's piety or greatness in Torah. Really, this is an error... Hashem listens to any Jew who blesses another person because he is a child of Abraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov with special powers and lineage. But to have those *brachos* fulfilled, he must truly want the other person to receive good fortune.

"This is what I try to do. I try to enter the other person's situation and truly want that person to receive blessings. It's something anyone can accomplish with his *brachos*."

Rav Shalom recalled this conversation, adding that he and others saw with their own eyes how many people came to Rav Shlomo Zalman's modest home for help with their troubles, and left knowing that their burden had been truly shared. He was the model of *nosei b'ol*—sharing another person's troubles—and living proof of the power of that *middah*.

### TALK ABOUT IT

What are some ways to train ourselves to "enter the other person's situation" and to truly want their troubles to be resolved?