



# SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS BO 5784 • ISSUE 374

## NO PRESSURE, NO DIFFERENCE

*When you know someone is undermining another person, does the victim's insistence on getting the relevant information from you impact what you should say?*

T H E

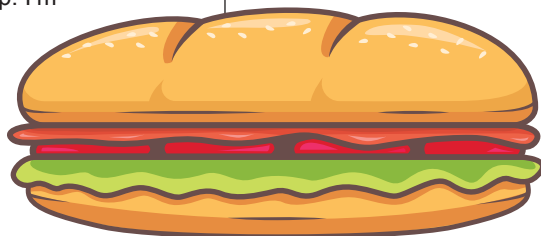
### DILEMMA

**E**liezer hates to be in the middle of controversy. So when he discovers on a recent business trip that his coworker, Yisrael, spends large amounts of company money on "client lunches" that involve many of his friends and relatives but no clients, he determines that he will keep his mouth shut tight.

Since Yisrael is a highly successful salesman, the company owner doesn't look very carefully at his expenses, but Eliezer knows that his coworker is stealing from his boss. In fact, judging by the excited reception Yisrael received from his cousins when they came to meet him at the hotel, Eliezer assumes that it's a party whenever Yisrael appears in town.

Back in the office at the end of the week, Eliezer's boss "debriefs" him about his trip. "You can learn a lot from Yisrael," he says. "He really knows how to get the most out of a sales trip. I'm sure he told you about the huge deal he closed."

The boss isn't asking about Yisrael's entertainment costs, but Eliezer knows his business is being damaged by them. Should he speak up?



T H E

### HALACHAH

**T**he only relevant factor is whether the conditions of *to'eles* are met. If so, then even without being pressured, Eliezer should speak up to prevent his boss from coming to further harm. If not, then he should not speak up, even if the boss presses him for information.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,  
Hilchos Rechilus 9:8*

## PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*I was hospitalized here in Israel the night before I was to undergo surgery. Some time after midnight, I was delighted to realize that I could call Chazak's Israel number and have one of your speakers keep me company. During my two-day hospital stay, I was able to listen to personal stories of overcoming challenges. I lack the words to express how much enjoyment, comfort, and chizuk I derived from these stories.*

### FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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

*"A person  
accomplishes  
much more  
through  
patience  
than with all the  
anger in the world."*

- Rabbi Chaim Volozhiner

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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# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Everyone who studies the mitzvah of *shmiras haloshon* hears many stories about how it changes lives and brings *yeshuos*. Once in a while, Hashem makes His message so obvious that we just can't miss it. This couple's experience, related in their own words in an email to the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, is one of those stories:

It was Pesach 2020, right after the outbreak of Covid. During our second Seder, as we began *Shulchan Orech*, my wife's expression changed dramatically.

"There's a mouse," she said. My instant reaction was to jump on the couch. But as I balanced the size of my reaction against the size of the mouse, I got off the couch. I named the mouse Susie, which made the creature seem less threatening.

Susie left us alone that night. But she came back the next day, and the day after that, and after that. She was in the basement, the main floor, and at one point she casually walked into our bedroom as I was reading in bed. I gasped, she gasped, and once again she disappeared into the walls. At this point it was clear that Susie was not alone. There was also Bob.

My wife, being a property manager, knew a good exterminator. He came and set peanut-butter-baited traps all over the house and stuffed all the holes in the walls. But the mice still showed up and were apparently not enticed by peanut butter.

This went on for two weeks until we got to *Parshas Tazria-Metzora*. I said to my wife, "You know that *tzaraas* first appears on your house, right? Maybe the mice are a *loshon hora* thing." So we took it upon ourselves to learn a *halachah* a day from *The Chofetz Chaim: A Daily Companion*.



## TALK ABOUT IT

Does it help your motivation for learning *shmiras haloshon* to dedicate the merit to a *yeshuah* for yourself or someone else?

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# sageadvice



PART OF A SERIES  
ON BEING NOSEI B'OL

## WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD

How do we choose a leader? Do we need someone smart? Charismatic? Energetic? Honest?

When we learn about Hashem's selection of Moshe Rabbeinu to lead the Jewish people, we find out what really counts: *Nosei b'ol im chaveiro*. Will he feel for the people he leads? That's what Hashem wanted to know, and according to Rav Matisyahu Salomon (citing the Alter of Kelm) all the information we have about Moshe in his first 80 years of life is contained in 21 *pesukim*, all of which address only this question.

First, Moshe leaves Pharaoh's palace to see the condition of the Jewish slaves and share in their suffering. He exchanges his royal clothes for that of a laborer and helps them lift their loads and make their bricks.

But he isn't interested only in the overall situation. His second act is to rise to the defense of an individual Jew who is being brutalized by an Egyptian. He cannot watch an innocent person suffering, and he acts to right the wrong.

His third deed is to stop a fight between two Jewish men. Even without seeing a clear good guy and bad guy, he can't bear to watch Jews attacking each other.

The fourth and final act is to defend Yisro's daughters from shepherds in Midyan. Here there were no Jews involved. We might think his concern would not be strong enough to risk involvement in a conflict amid foreign people on foreign soil. But the sight of any human being suffering from others' cruelty rouses him to action yet again.

With these episodes, Moshe Rabbeinu proves his merit as the leader of the Jewish people. Hashem knows he will be *nosei b'ol im chaveiro* on the long, difficult road ahead.

## TALK ABOUT IT

How can this trait help a leader avoid bad decisions?

From the moment we learned our first *halachah* until this very day, three-and-a-half years later, neither Susie, nor Bob, nor any of their friends have ever been seen in our house. The traps remained empty. The mice simply vacated the premises.

The power of *shmiras haloshon*! We have finished the book three times since then. We're not perfect; we all fall in this area sometimes, but we can say that our house is filled with an awareness of the power of speech to bring *yeshuos*.



## OUR MISSION

at the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation is to inspire Jews around the world to grasp the life-enhancing gift of *shmiras haloshon*, *ahavas Yisrael*, and *shalom*, and to provide easy access to a wide array of options designed to spark personal growth.

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