



SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS YISRO 5784 • ISSUE 376

SHOPPING ERROR

Your friend made a bad purchase, only he doesn't know it yet. May you inform him?

T H E

DILEMMA

On the first cold Shabbos of November, Boruch proudly donned his fine new wool coat and headed off to shul. On his way, his friend Ari caught up with him.

"New coat?" Ari asked.

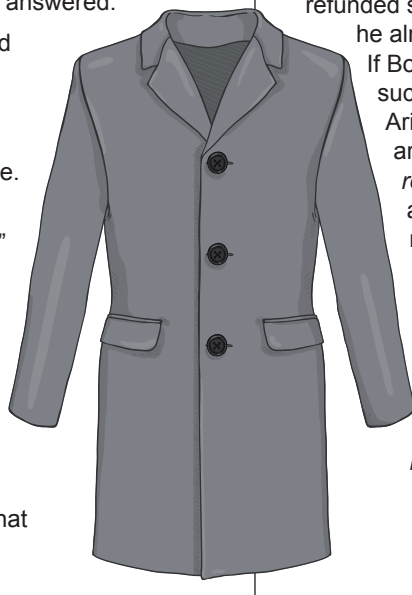
"Yeah. It's warm, too!" Boruch answered.

"Where'd you get it?" his friend inquired.

"I treated myself," Boruch answered. "I went to Fit for a King. Not cheap, even on sale. No returns."

"Oy! The guy is such a rip-off!" Ari exclaimed. "He sells the same stuff they sell at Herman's Dry Goods, but at Herman's the prices are at least 25 percent lower. In fact, I saw this exact coat there. Dovid King is simply way overpriced!"

Is Ari allowed to tell Boruch that Dovid overcharged him?



T H E

HALACHAH

The Chofetz Chaim presents several halachic principles that determine when a buyer has the right to cancel a transaction or be refunded some of what he already paid.

If Boruch has no such rights, then Ari's comments are pure *rechilus*, which accomplishes nothing other than causing Boruch to feel animosity toward Dovid King.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 9:11

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

I love the videos! They are the perfect length, the graphics are amazing, and they're given over beautifully!! Every time I open a SHY or even a Shalom Challenge video I'm amazed each time anew!

Keep up the amazing work! The zechusim you are gathering in Shamayim, I am sure are BEYOND!!!

*Thank you so so much!
A.T., Montreal*

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"You stumbled today and spoke the forbidden? Then strengthen yourself and do battle once more!"

- Sefer Shmiras Haloshon, Preface

A letter came to the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation from a young man who had an important story to tell. It portrays the daily agony of a child who is bullied, and on the other side of the balance, the healing salve of a kind word or gesture:

As a boy, learning came easy to me. But I was always clumsy and inept on the ballfield and playground. Since I was seven years old, I was bullied, shamed, taunted, and excluded by my classmates. My parents, who are both respected *mechanchim*, knew I was being tortured. They tried to help me, and they spoke to my *rebbeim* and principal. The perpetrators were even punished, but that only made matters worse.

A kid's world is ruled by his peers. I wasn't one of them and I would never be one of them. But their hurtful words were just the beginning of destroying my sense of self. In a kid's world, hurt escalates like wildfire. Although I was still excelling in my learning because it was easy for me, I was morose to the point of not functioning.

This went on until I knew I couldn't go on with it anymore. I was done. I got on a bus and left. One day I was very hungry. I went into a small kosher grocery store with the little money I had. When I was checking out, I saw that I didn't have enough money to pay. The cashier stepped away for a moment and I grabbed my food and ran out of the store. I ducked behind a dumpster and waited to see what would happen.

Ten minutes later, I came out of hiding and saw the lady who had been standing behind me at the counter. I knew she had witnessed everything. For

WORDS AT THEIR WORST... AND BEST

some reason, I approached her and asked, "Why wasn't there a commotion?" In a voice smothered in warmth and sadness, she said to me, "Don't worry. I paid the bill. You looked so hungry!"

That one loving sentence was the beginning of my road back to life. I want everyone to know, you can build someone. Just put your arm out there and there are tens of thousands of us waiting to grab on.



TALK ABOUT IT

Surely his parents and others had said loving things to him before. Why did this woman's empathy have so much impact?

sage advice

USING HASHEM'S POWER

Is speech a real force, or is it "just words"? On the one hand, most people would rather be yelled at than punched in the nose. On the other hand, the Torah teaches us that speech is our greatest power.

That's especially true because *tefillah* – our primary way of bringing Hashem's blessings into our life – consists of words. And Torah – Hashem's once-in-history message to us – is also made of words.

What makes words, which are really only air and vibrations, or ink on paper, so tremendously powerful? The answer comes to us from Onkelos, who says that the *neshamah* that Hashem blew into Adam HaRishon was a "*ruach memalela*" – a speaking soul. Our power of speech was Hashem's finishing touch on His creation; it's what made us human.

But the *Zohar* goes further. It explains that when a person blows into something – for instance, a balloon – he blows from himself. It's *his* breath that goes in. This means that when Hashem blew into us, a part of Him entered, and that is the same *ruach* we use to speak. It's no wonder that we have the power, through *tefillah*, to communicate with Hashem. We're only using the power He gave us.

Hashem invested us with a part of Himself. How can we then turn it against Him and use it to hurt His children? The key to success in life is to harness this unlimited power and use it to create a world of *ahavas Yisrael*.

TALK ABOUT IT

If you were to constantly have in mind when you speak that you're using Hashem's *ruach* to do it, how would that influence the words you say and the subjects you discuss?



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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