



SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS TERUMAH 5784 • ISSUE 378

DOING JUSTICE

While we're not allowed to tell someone he's been cheated if there's nothing he can do about it, what if he does have recourse? What if halachah is on his side?

T H E

DILEMMA

Yishai goes to Israel for three weeks. He leaves his car keys with his neighbor Reuven, and tells him, "Just start it up and let it run for about ten minutes every few days. I don't like to leave it idle in the cold weather for too long."

Reuven fulfills his task faithfully. One day, Reuven's own car won't start. He thinks, "Yishai wouldn't mind if I use his." For the next two weeks he drives around town in Yishai's car while he figures out what to do with his own jalopy. Another neighbor, Yehudah, notices that Reuven is helping himself to Yishai's car. One night he observes that as Reuven backs into Yishai's driveway, he hits a fence and dents the fender.

When Yishai comes home, he notices a dent in his rear fender. "Did I have that before?" he wonders out loud in front of Yehudah. "I don't remember it. I'm not even insured for collision. It's so expensive to get body work done these days. Oh well."

May Yehudah tell Yishai that Reuven drove his car around and caused the dent?



T H E

HALACHAH

Since it is likely that halachah would provide a remedy for Yishai, Yehudah is required to tell him, as long as the conditions of *to'eles* are met.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 9:11

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

I am a teacher and these shmiras haloshon 2-minute videos provide practical assistance in how to better interact with my students.



You, too, can join Shmiras Haloshon Yomi today! Ed.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"One should never despair of making peace; he should pursue it

Today...
and then the
next day...
until he succeeds."

- Sefer Shmiras Haloshon, Shaar HaZechirah ch. 17

A participant in the Hour of Caring program wrote this personal account of the clearly protective power of *shmiras haloshon*. She shared her amazing story, she said, "because I am completely blown away."

A few weeks ago, many of my family members were experiencing difficult situations all around the same time. My father fell and fractured his hip, my sister sliced her hand open, and my daughter had had a very serious surgery and was experiencing some complications. Plus, we were having the ups and downs of two kids in *shidduchim*.

At the same time, *Am Yisrael* experienced an absolutely horrifying attack on our people in our land, and our boys were on the frontlines. Among them was my nephew, whose unit was one of the first to enter Gaza.

We decided to take something on as a family to give us merit and protection. *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* sent us information about the Hour of Caring literally the next day.

Baruch Hashem, within our own family things started improving. My father, who is over 80 *k"h* and has Alzheimer's, showed remarkable improvement. My sister's hand was getting better and my own daughter's complications started slowly resolving, too.

But what mainly compelled me to write this – even though the above situations are more than enough reason to acknowledge the power of *shmiras haloshon* and to thank the *Ribbono Shel Olam* – is the following:

My nephew is a tank driver whose

REFUAH AND YESHUAH – THE POWER OF AN HOUR

tank was the seventh to go into Gaza. A couple of weeks into the war, his tank was attacked by anti-tank missiles from terrorists who suddenly appeared from nowhere. One missile landed in a petrol canister right next to his tank. *B'chasdei Hashem*, the canister was empty. But the



shrapnel hit his commander (the soldier whose head is outside of

the tank) and he was knocked unconscious. *B'chasdei Hashem* he survived and is recovering from his wounds.

This incident, however, left my nephew with no one to navigate him out of Gaza while they were being attacked. The tank in front of him suffered tragedies, as did the tank to his side, but, miraculously, they managed to kill the terrorists and navigate the (now damaged) tank back to safe ground.

In the words of my sister-in-law, "I received my son back as a gift." This all happened on the 6th of November, the day after our group started! *Shmiras Haloshon, shmiras haguf*.

May we only share *besoros tovos*.

sage advice

LOSHON HORA'S "CO-INFECTIONS"

When someone speaks *loshon hora*, there's no doubt that he's violating the Torah's law against "going as a talebearer." But like a virus that weakens a person's body and makes way for other infections to take hold, *loshon hora* opens the door to a slew of other spiritual ills as well.

Eli came home from shul one Shabbos, angry that he didn't get an aliyah. At lunch, he complained that the gabbai had his favorites. Then he complained that the rabbi should insist that honors are given out fairly. Finally, he accused wealthy old Mr. Steiner, whose family has donated millions to the shul over the years, of forcing the gabbai to give the honors to his dozens of sons, sons-in-law, and grandsons.

If *aveiros* were germs, Eli would have just brought about his own spiritual pandemic. First, of course, is the *loshon hora* that taints his entire story. He has something negative to say about the *gabbai*, the *rav*, and Mr. Steiner.

But when he opened his mouth to speak this *loshon hora*, he did more harm than he knew. That is because the *gabbai* is a *kohen*, and the Torah commands us to honor a *kohen*. The *rav* is a *talmid chacham*, and the Torah commands us to honor *talmidei chachamim*. Finally, there's rich Mr. Steiner, who is 92 years old. When Eli accuses him of using his money to bully the *gabbai* into favoring his children, he is insulting the elderly, another group of people a Jew is supposed to honor.

The Chofetz Chaim warns us that Eli's mistake is not at all unusual. Whenever we open our mouths to speak *loshon hora*, we are usually opening ourselves up to the impact of other sins as well. By keeping our words positive, we keep our spiritual immune system strong.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can you use this idea to help you stay away from *loshon hora*?



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