



SHABBOS MENU

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“OUT FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE!”

You ask someone to reserve an item for you, and before you return for it, he sells it to someone else. May he tell you who nabbed your item?

T H E

DILEMMA

The Cohens needed a new car. Ari Cohen found just what he was looking for at Wheels of Fortune, a local dealership owned by Chaim Weil.

“I just need to get financing,” Ari told Chaim. “I’ll go to my bank and apply today and I’ll have the check by tomorrow. Can you hold it for me?”

“Sure, sure,” said Chaim.

No sooner had Ari driven off in his noisy old van than Yaakov Yellen drove in. He admired the car Ari had chosen and asked Chaim for the price.

“I’m holding it for someone,” Chaim explained. Yaakov asked what price the would-be buyer had agreed upon. “It’s priced at \$22,000,” Chaim replied.

“I have exactly \$21,000 in cash right here,” said Yaakov. “I want to buy the car.”

“I don’t know...it doesn’t seem right...” Chaim said.

Yaakov thrust a wad of cash in his hand and said, “Count it, give me a receipt and the keys and it’s done!”

“Well, it’s not like the other guy gave me a deposit or anything ... OK, deal,” said Chaim.

When Ari Cohen returned the next day with his \$22,000 check, Chaim told him the bad news. “It’s sold,” he said. Ari was furious. “You said you’d hold it! How could you sell it out from under my nose?”

Chaim wants to tell Ari about the pressure Yaakov put on him, hoping to mitigate Ari’s anger. May he?

T H E

HALACHAH

Since Chaim has completed a valid sale with Yaakov, and Ari has no remedy available to him, telling Ari that Yaakov pressured him into selling the car is pure *rechilus*, which achieves no constructive purpose and causes Ari to be angry at Yaakov.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 9:15



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.

WEEKLY WISDOM

*On Purim we learn when not to talk.
“Esther did not tell.”*

On Pesach there is a mitzvah to talk. “Kol hamarbeh harei zeh meshubach!”

Only once we learn what not to say and when not to talk, can we open our mouths to share the story of redemption!

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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“Who is
honored?
He who
honors
his fellow man.”

– Avos 4:1

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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

THE STREET CLEANER'S GREATNESS

Rabbi Aryeh Levin, *mashgiach* of Yeshivas Eitz Chaim in Yerushalyim, was a renowned *tzaddik*, known for his caring for the downtrodden. After his passing in 1969, a *talmid chacham* met a street cleaner who worked on Reb Aryeh's block.

The rabbi asked him, "Did you know Reb Aryeh?"

"Sure, I knew him," the man replied. "Every morning, he smiled at me and gave me a big *shalom aleichem*. He always asked how I was doing and wished me a good day."

But the street cleaner had one interaction with Reb Aryeh that changed his life: "Once, he said to me, 'You know, Mr. Yehudah, I envy you.'"

I was shocked. Why would this great Rav envy me? I had never looked into a *sefer* in my life! But he insisted that it was true, and that in fact, my reward in *Shamayim* would be greater than his!

"Think about it," he told me. "You get up every morning without fail to clean Hashem's world. What greater merit can there be? Imagine the pleasure Hashem has when he watches you working hard to keep His city clean and beautiful. Not many people have such a *zechus*."

That day was a turning point in the street cleaner's life. He no longer felt like a simple Jew doing a lowly job, but rather, like the trusted keeper of Hashem's palace.

"Ever since then, I'm proud and happy with what I do," the street cleaner told the *talmid chacham*. "It turned from

sageadvice



PART 3 OF SERIES
ON INNER PEACE

PURPOSELY BY MISTAKE

"It's a little risky, but I'm telling you from experience, you're going to make a fortune on this house," Boruch told his friend Chaim, who was looking to make his first real estate investment.

The plan was to buy the house, renovate it and "flip it" for a healthy profit. Chaim followed Boruch's advice. When flipping time came, however, Chaim wasn't finding buyers willing to pay the price. Then, an emergency arose, and Chaim had to sell the house at a big loss.

"Why did I let Boruch talk me into that house? Who do I think I am investing in real estate?" Chaim scolded himself. Years later, still not financially secure, he continued to call the investment, "the worst decision I ever made."

Regret for a decision is like quicksand. Once we step into it, we sink ourselves. "Why did I move to this town?" "Why did I take this job?" "Why did I say no to that *shidduch*?" We never know, when faced with a choice, what the outcome will be. Even if we do our best to research the pros and cons, we sometimes find that we missed a piece of information which, had we known it, would have changed our decision.

This kind of thinking leads us into the miserable world of "shoulda-coulda-woulda," where a sick feeling in the gut and turmoil in the brain are our constant companions.

We might feel lost, and we should, because we've wandered outside our own domain. Hashem divides the decision-making process into two domains: Ours is to weigh the options and take action. His is to provide the results. When we think our decision is what produced the disappointing result, we're treading on Hashem's territory. **We know what we hoped to accomplish, but only He knows what we need to accomplish**, and that is what inevitably comes to pass.

The cure to regret is *bitachon*. The best way to silence the "shoulda-coulda-woulda" voice inside is to say the first *Ani Maamin* that states: "I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, creates and guides every being, and He alone made, makes, and will make all things." Whatever it is, it's from Hashem.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can a decision that seems to be a mistake help us in the long run?

drudgery into a great privilege. And that's all thanks to Reb Aryeh's words."

When someone is attuned to the greatness of each Jew, he has the power to uplift those who don't see their own value. And that can change their lives.

TALK ABOUT IT

Think of some jobs people don't generally hold in high esteem. What unique contributions are the people doing those jobs making to Hashem's world? What would happen without them?



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