

REMINDER:

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SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS METZORA - SHABBOS HAGADOL 5784 • ISSUE 387

THE VALUE OF VAGUE

You made the wrong move—you sold something to one customer when another customer had already reserved it. If you accept the blame for failing to honor your word to the first customer, may you mention the name of the person who ultimately bought the item?

T H E

DILEMMA

Gedalia Glick sold good quality second-hand furniture. His neighbor Nachum was expecting four branches of his extended family for Pesach, and he needed to buy more chairs. He stopped by Gedalia's store to check out the merchandise and spotted six comfortable, matching chairs that suited his needs perfectly.

"I'm going to take these chairs," Nachum told Gedalia. "I'll come back tomorrow with my neighbor's cargo van to pay for them and pick them up."

"Great!" said Gedalia. "Don't worry. The chairs aren't going anywhere."

However, a while later, Reuven showed up. "Wow! They're still here!" he said to Gedalia, pointing to the chairs Nachum wanted. "I saw them a couple of days ago and I really liked them. I'm glad no one else took them. I even brought a pick-up truck, so I can bring them straight from here to my house!"

Gedalia couldn't bear to deflate Reuven's enthusiasm. "These things happen in business," he reasoned silently. "Nachum will understand."

Nachum did not understand. "You're 100 percent right!" Gedalia told him. "I should have told Reuven that someone else had claimed the merchandise. He didn't mean to do anything wrong. He didn't even know!"

In taking the blame, has Gedalia prevented the story from becoming *rechilus*?

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.

T H E

HALACHAH

Gedalia has not succeeded because Nachum is bound to have negative feelings about Reuven despite Gedalia's acceptance of the blame. Instead, Gedalia should have explained with a vague statement like, "I made a mistake and sold them to someone else."

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Rechilus Klal 9:15*



WEEKLY WISDOM

The Sfas Emes taught that a primary gain of our Redemption from Egypt is that Hashem redeemed Klal Yisrael's power of speech, enabling us to bring

Hashem's presence into the world with our words of Torah and tefillah.

With this in mind, we bring you the Pesach Menu learning for every meal, to elevate ourselves and our Yom Tov through the power of speech.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"A metzora is a "motzi ra" [one who speaks evil], and the Torah is

unusually

stringent with regard to his

tzumah

[ritual impurity]."

*- Sefer Shmiras Haloshon
Shaar HaZechirah ch. 5*

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS

MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

The family is gathering for Yom Tov. Who gets the extra bedroom for the kids? Who should read their divrei Torah first at the Seder? The Four Questions: Yiddish, Hebrew, or English? Who gets to play with the toys you brought for your kids? What if you knew that by surrendering in these little skirmishes, you'd win something much, much bigger?

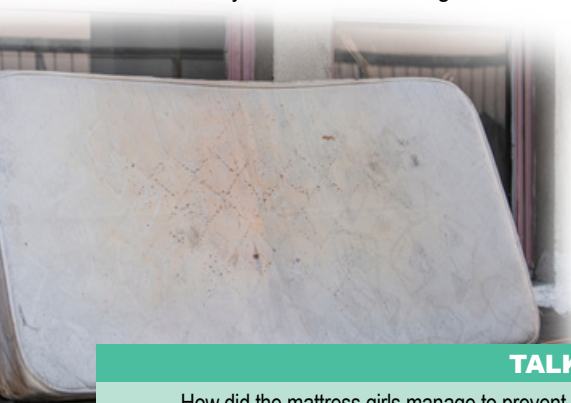
Eight single friends in their late twenties decided to go on a summer trip together. After a quick discussion, they decided that their destination would be Eretz Yisrael. One of the girls took it upon herself to be the travel agent, making all the arrangements for flights and a place to stay.

She found a very well-priced apartment in Yerushalayim. The landlady described it as big and airy, with a large kitchen and beds for eight adults. What a bargain!

But when the girls arrived at the address at 4:00 a.m. after a long flight, they thought they had come to the wrong place. This apartment was cramped and old, with two small bedrooms and three single beds. The five girls without beds put quilts on the floor and slept for a while.

At 9:30 a.m. they called the landlady, who denied she had ever promised eight beds and invited them to leave the apartment if they didn't want it. In mid-summer, she'd have no trouble renting it out. But if they wanted to stay, they could find enough mattresses in a closet on the porch.

With no alternative, they dragged out the stained, moldy mattresses. Three girls



THE INCREDIBLE VALUE OF A MOLDY MATTRESS

took the beds and the other five used the mattresses, improved somewhat by the clean linens. "We'll switch every few days," they agreed.

But the switch never happened. The mattress girls grumbled a bit, but no one wanted to make an issue of it, fearing that it would sour the trip. Instead, all eight sprang from bed early each morning and traveled the country together, arriving home after midnight. Among their stops was the Negev, where they visited a *chacham* for a *brachah*. He told them that they would be married within the year, provided they did *chesed* and practiced *vatranus* with each other.

One of the girls who took a mattress, Shani, called her father one day and asked his advice about the bed situation. He advised her to be *mevater*, because "good things happen to those who don't stand on principle."

It was at Shani's *Shabbos kallah* later that year that Shani's friend noticed something. She, Shani and all the other the mattress girls were either married or engaged. She recalled the *chacham's brachah* and Shani's father's wise advice, and couldn't deny that, indeed, the words had come true.

Adapted from a story by C.B. Weinfeld in the Yated Ne'eman

TALK ABOUT IT

How did the mattress girls manage to prevent themselves from becoming resentful and ruining the trip?

As a *zechus* for the Sinnreich family

As a *zechus* for *parnassah*, and for my *sefer* to be with *hatzlachah*

As a *zechus* for a *refuah sheleimah* for Refeol Reuven ben Shira Hadassah sponsored by the Montag family

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

sage advice

THE PRICE OF PEACE

Pesach matzos are expensive. So is an esrog. But most of us accept these costs as the price of doing a mitzvah, and pay even more than the minimum in order to fulfill them to a higher degree.

The Chofetz Chaim says we should put aside money for another mitzvah as well—keeping peace. How many disputes have their origins in a minor monetary loss? Items borrowed and broken. Mistaken sales, wrong change... But if we set aside an amount of money specifically to cover these small losses, even when we believe ourselves to be in the right, we can eliminate the cause of much strife. By doing this, the Chofetz Chaim says, we fulfill the words of *Tehillim* (34:15) "Seek peace and pursue it."

TALK ABOUT IT

It is the week before Pesach and you have only \$300. You can spend it to buy *shmurah matzos* and wine for the Seder, or you can use the money to settle a dispute and restore peace. What would you do and why?

[NOTE: For discussion only. Actual halachic decisions should be made by a *rav*.]



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