

## A MITZVA DILEMMA FOR THE SHABBOS TABLE



### SELLING THE SUPERMARKET

By Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

Mr. Green, the owner of an supermarket, was very proud of the fact that it was a shomer Shabbos supermarket. He wanted to sell it and retire. He hired a commercial real estate agent named Dan, who said that he was going to find a buyer for the supermarket. Since Dan was planning to show the facility to potential buyers, Mr Green gave Dan the keys.

One Shabbos, Mr. Green was enjoying his Shabbos lunch when he got dozens of visitors telling him that his store was open, the lights were on, and people were walking in on Shabbos. Mr. Green was very confused. He later was able to clarify what happened. It turned out that his broker had shown the supermarket to a potential buyer on Shabbos, and those were the people walking in the store, and that's why the lights were on.



### THE PROTAGONIST

We currently find ourselves in a remarkable period in our history. It has already been over 200 days since the war in Gaza began and every synagogue in Baltimore and I presume in other communities as well, have added an extra few minutes to davening for Shacharis, for Mincha and for Maariv. In spite of everyone's hectic schedule people stay late to recite these extra Psalms as prayers to HaShem for the welfare and victory of our people in Israel. In spite of the duration of this conflict our attention has not waned. The sense of urgency has been maintained. How sensitive our people are to the pain of their brothers!

Our Sages teach that the name of the Pesach holiday is derived from two words; peh soch, which translates as 'a talking mouth'. This alludes to the notion that with the Freedom we achieved with our exodus, we also achieved the power of speech. Elsewhere we also find that the Jewish people are blessed with an extraordinary power of speech greater than other nations. When Yaakov approached his father, Yitzchok for the blessings, Yitzchok said "You have the voice of Yaakov and the hands of Eisov". The implication is that Yaakov has a unique capacity of speech. How can we understand this newly acquired power of speech that is unique to us over the other nations?

The Torah teaches us that Man's unique quality over animals is his power of speech together with his ability of understanding. The merging of these two qualities, speech and intellect, gives Man a godliness. He is able to transform thoughts and feelings into words and use those words to pass on that thought and feeling to another person. In other words, with speech and intellect Man can transcend himself and enter another person.

HaShem created the world with a destiny, with a destination, with a purpose and a goal. That goal will be achieved on two planes. Let us use drama as our model. The director creates the drama to make a point and to teach a profound lesson. To achieve

It was very embarrassing for Mr. Green because he had always been very proud of owning and managing a shomer Shabbos store.

After Shabbos, Mr. Green got a call from Dan, who was very excited and had great news: he had found a buyer who was interested in buying the supermarket.

Mr. Green said, "Yeah, I heard. I've been meaning to talk to you about it. I want to be honest with you. I was greatly humiliated by the fact that the store was open on Shabbos, the lights were on, people were in, and people kept telling me the whole Shabbos that my store was open. I'll be honest with you, if you got him interested in making the purchase on Shabbos, I'm not even sure I'll be able to make the sale because it's a product of Shabbos desecration. And even if I am allowed to, honestly, I don't want to pay you your commission because you greatly humiliated me by opening the store on Shabbos."

So, Mr. Green brought these two questions to Rav Zilberstein:

1. If the broker made the sale on Shabbos, is Mr. Green allowed to follow through with the sale?
2. Does Mr. Green have the right to withhold the commission from the broker because he was humiliated by the fact that it was open on Shabbos?

What do you think?

See Upiryo Matok Vayikra Page 373



“The rewards of asking for help – increased humility, connection, and trust – are well worth the effort.”



his goal he needs two sets. For the first set he must create a stage with all the necessary props and scenery. For his next set, he must get the actors who will perform and actually play out the drama.

In a similar vein, HaShem created this world with a destiny. There is a lesson that will be learnt from the history of Mankind. For the first set He created the world in the first six days of creation. For His next set he got His actors. For His protagonist He created the Jewish people. They were to be the lead actor who would travel through world history and teach the world that great lesson. For the supporting actors He used the other nations.

Just as in creating the first set, he endowed Man over the animals with the power of speech and intellect in order to produce the actors from Man, so it was regarding the second set. He endowed His protagonist with an extraordinary power of intellect and speech.

Most of the nations of the UN can speak just as well as Israel. In

what way is the nation of Israel better equipped in the area of speech? The answer is that the power of speech we are discussing is not simply the ability to transmit thoughts and feelings through words to another person. We are discussing the ability to transmit thoughts and feelings through words to the spiritual plane. With our exodus from Egypt we were endowed with a connection to HaShem that no other nation will achieve. And with our speech we can now elevate the entire world in profound spiritual ways to the spiritual places to which we are connected.

The Talmud teaches us that “when the righteous increase and intensify their prayers, their prayers will be heard”. The nation of Israel as a whole is referred to as “righteous”, **כי עמך כולם צדיקים**. As we look back to Iran’s recent attempt to attack Israel with over 300 missiles and there were practically no casualties we must acknowledge that HaShem is hearing our prayers.

Now that we have passed that holiday of Peh soch may our continued prayers finally bring our long awaited redemption.

Have a wonderful Shabbos.

**Paysach Diskind**



## SHABBOS: CELEBRATING HASHEM'S CREATION

### THE HARPY EAGLE: A GIANT OF THE SKY

Please join me for a wild adventure as we soar into the lush rainforests of Central and South America to meet one of the most spectacular birds of prey—the Harpy Eagle! With talons as long as a grizzly bear's claws and a wingspan that can reach up to 7 feet, this eagle is not only among the largest, but also one of the most powerful raptors in the world.

Harpy Eagles are truly a sight to behold. With a commanding presence, these birds can grow up to 3 feet in height, making them one of the largest eagle species. Females, larger than males, can weigh nearly twice as much as their counterparts, often reaching weights of over 20 pounds. These birds have robust bodies, thick legs, and enormous, powerful claws. Designed more for power than for speed, their short wings and long tails help them maneuver through the dense rainforest canopy where they reign supreme.

The harpy eagle possesses the largest talons of any living eagle and is capable of carrying off prey that weighs up to half of its own body weight. This remarkable strength allows it to snatch large prey like sloths from tree branches.

The name "harpy" comes from Ancient Greek mythology, where harpies were depicted as spirits with bodies part eagle and part human.

Living in areas bustling with biodiversity, Harpy Eagles share their home with jaguars, macaws, and sloths. They are diurnal, which means they are most active during the day, spending a lot of time perched high up in the trees. Their unique facial disk of feathers isn't just for show; it helps direct sound to their ears, enhancing their hearing, perfect for hunting their favorite meals—large mammals like monkeys and sloths. Harpies have a significant preference for tree-dwelling mammals, especially sloths and monkeys.

Here's how this facial disk works: The facial disk of feathers is designed to reflect and concentrate sound waves toward the eagle's ears. The feathers are stiff and arranged in a concave shape, similar to a satellite dish, which helps direct sound waves from various directions toward the ear openings. The facial disk also helps to reduce noise and interference from other sources, such as wind or rustling leaves. The feathers act as a barrier, blocking out unwanted sounds and allowing the eagle to focus on the specific sounds it is interested in, like the movements of potential prey. The sound-reflecting and funneling properties of the facial disk increase the overall sensitivity of the eagle's hearing, allowing it to detect even

faint sounds from greater distances or through obstructions like foliage.

This specialized adaptation for enhanced hearing is particularly important for the Harpy Eagle, which relies heavily on its auditory senses to locate and capture prey in the dense and visually obstructed rainforest habitats where it lives.

Harpy Eagles are monogamous and may pair for life, building large nests high in the canopy where they return year after year. The female primarily incubates the eggs for about 55 days, and typically only one chick survives. The chick then depends on its parents for up to two years, a crucial period during which it learns to hunt and survive in the harsh jungle.

Despite their formidable presence, Harpy Eagles reproduce slowly, with breeding occurring only every two to three years. This low reproduction rate is one reason why every individual eagle's survival is so vital for the continuation of the species. They build large stick nests in high trees and show a strong preference for certain types of tall trees like the kapok and Brazil nut trees.

As apex predators, Harpy Eagles help control populations of mesopredators like capuchin monkeys, which if unchecked, could cause local extinctions of other sensitive species due to their predation on eggs.

Despite their strength and power, Harpy Eagles face significant threats. Deforestation and hunting have reduced their numbers so dramatically that they were declared extinct in some areas, like El Salvador. The Peregrine Fund, recognizing the critical condition of these majestic eagles, initiated a conservation project in 1989 which included breeding them in captivity and reintroducing them into the wild.

This project faced challenges, especially with breeding in Boise, Idaho, due to its colder, drier conditions compared to their native humid rainforests. However, with innovative solutions like special chambers that mimicked rainforest conditions, the project saw its first successful breeding outside Boise in Panama City in 2001. By 2006, the program had released almost 50 Harpy Eagles back into the wilds of Panama and Belize.

Thank you, Hashem, for your wondrous world!

## I HAVE FINALLY FOUND YOU

Rav Yitzchak Elchanon Spector didn't just counsel people, he would also go around collecting for them. Once, he was gathering funds for a person who had encountered a series of difficulties.

He approached a very wealthy man and asked him for a donation. The man offered him 25 rubles if he would reveal the name of the person he was helping. Rabbi Spector refused. The offer was raised to 100 rubles, but he still refused. Finally, the man offered to give him all the money he needed to raise. Rabbi Spector said, "Even if you were to give me all the money you have, I cannot undermine the respect for another Jew. That is worth much more."

The man asked, "Do you mean there is nothing I can do to make you tell me who it is?" Rabbi Spector replied, "No." So the man said, "In that case, I would like to speak to you privately. I have a problem that has been burning inside me, but I couldn't ask for advice from anyone because I am afraid of anyone finding out about it. I never found someone I could trust. But I have finally found you."

Based On Touched by a Story Volume Two, page 113



### THE ANSWER

Regarding last week's question about the cell phone jammer, Rav Zilberstein writes that the person did a terrible thing by using the jammer without permission. As he could have blocked emergency calls that were life-threatening. Rav Zilberstein concludes that the person who installed the jammer is obligated to pay for the loss to fulfill the requirement of *dinei shamayim*.

In honor of our daughter  
**Tamar Devorah Shulman**  
for donating her kidney and part of her liver and for the continued refuah of her recipients  
With love and admiration

Your parents,  
Rabbi Reuven and Janine Chapman



Brad E. Kauffman Esquire and Kauffman and Forman P.A.  
specializing in corporate and construction law,  
estates, wills and trusts and business litigation.

