



SHABBOS MENU

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SOMEONE TOLD ME

A negative comment is made about someone in front of three people and one of those people repeats the information to you. If he meets the conditions that allow him to tell you, are you allowed to pass it along?

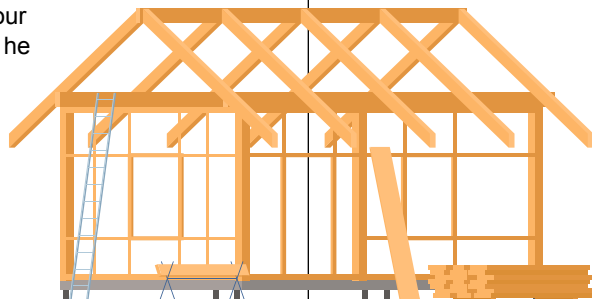
DILEMMA

Your friend is at the *Lag Ba'Omer* bonfire at the corner of your street with a large group of neighbors. They are all standing together waiting for the music to start and giving their opinion about the new house going up in your neighborhood, which is the size of a small hotel. The owner of the house is a businessman who supports every *tzedakah* in town.

"He seems like a big *tzaddik*, but do you know what it's like to work for him?" says one man. "My cousin was his warehouse manager until he quit because he couldn't take the boss's temper tantrums anymore."

"Sounds like our new neighbor is going to be someone to steer clear of," your friend tells you later. "One of the guys says he has a really bad temper."

You weren't there to hear this report yourself, but your friend was there, and he heard it in front of a large group. May you warn others about the new neighbor?



THE HALACHAH

A *pei t'lasa* doesn't apply unless you hear the *loshon hora* with your own ears. If someone who did hear it in those circumstances passes it on to you, you may not rely on this allowance to repeat the information.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 2:3

WEEKLY WISDOM

When Rabi Akiva lost 24,000 talmidim, he did not give in to despair, nor did he give up his quest to teach and spread Torah. And from the five remaining talmidim he taught then, Torah continued to spread.

Lag Ba'Omer is a time to rejoice and grab that power of renewal, and know that even if our efforts to improve have failed until now, we should never give up!

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Hashem said to Israel:
My Beloved

children,
what do I ask of you?
Only that you love
one another
and respect one another."

- Tana D'vei Eliyahu Rabbah ch. 28



PRIORITY NUMBER ONE

Preparing for Kabbalas HaTorah is the perfect time to set priorities.

Interrupting Torah learning is known throughout the Torah observant world as something that should be avoided when at all possible. There are stories of gedolim sitting glued to their Gemaras as air raid sirens wail and as Nazis storm into the room. We even learn in Pirkei Avos (3:7) that a person should not interrupt his Torah learning to admire nature—Hashem’s creation!

But as this story of Rav Yehuda Addas teaches us, there’s a mitzvah that does in fact call for us to put our learning aside:

One Thursday night, the entire Yeshiva Kol Yaakov was assembled in the *beis medrash*, avidly listening to the weekly Gemara *shiur* of their Rosh Yeshivah, Rav Yehuda Addas. The *talmidim* sat silently, concentrating on the Rosh Yeshivah’s brilliant words, when a poor man walked in.

“I have no food for Shabbos,” the man announced to those assembled in the room.

The *talmidim* watched and waited to see how the Rosh Yeshivah would react. But they did not have to wait long. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a stack of cash.

Handing it to one of the students, he said simply, “Please give this to

sage advice

THE GREATEST

If even the great *talmidim* of Rabi Akiva were not perfect in their respect for each other, then respecting and honoring others is obviously a challenge. The key to overcoming this challenge is humility. Ramban, in his famous letter to his son, *Igeres HaRamban*, advised, “Let all men seem greater than you in your eyes.” He called this quality the “finest of all traits.”

Rav Yosef Weiss z”l, a close *talmid* of the Manchester Rosh Yeshivah, Rav Yehuda Zev Segal, zt”l, asked his *rebbe* how this is possible. Can’t we see, simply by looking around, that we’re not inferior to everyone? The answer, said Rav Segal, is to understand that every person is superior **in some way**. Even the “lowest of the low,” the career criminal, has some quality in which he surpasses you, maybe die-hard loyalty to his gang, or courage in the face of danger, etc.

By recognizing that everyone is superior **in some way**, we can acquire the humility that will enable us to respect each and every person we meet.

TALK ABOUT IT

What is one *middah* that you find challenging that you admire in someone else?

the man.” It was enough to cover most of the man’s Shabbos expenses for that week. The *shiur* moved on as if nothing had happened. Amazingly, to the students, it was the *shiur*, not the poor man’s request, that had been put on hold.



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TALK ABOUT IT

Why did the Rosh Yeshivah not tell a student to ask the man to wait, or return later, when the *shiur* was over? The poor man would still have been able to buy food for Shabbos then.



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L'ilui nishmat Yehudit Figlu bat Dina a"h, and as a zechut for shidduchim

With gratitude from Yonason and Rachel Wolf

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